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THE NEW YORK PREMIERE OF

STUFFED AND UNSTRUNG

FROM HENSON ALTERNATIVE

A NIGHT OF MAJOR LAUGHS, NOT FOR MINORS

**BRIAN HENSON BRINGS THE JIM HENSON COMPANY'S
WORLD-RENOWNED PUPPETEERS TO THE**

**UNION SQUARE THEATRE
(100 EAST 17TH STREET)**

SPECIAL 10-WEEK LIMITED ENGAGEMENT THROUGH MAY 29

PERFORMANCES BEGIN WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17

OFFICIAL OPENING IS SET FOR THURSDAY, APRIL 1

WestBeth Entertainment and **Henson Alternative** proudly announce the New York debut of ***STUFFED AND UNSTRUNG***, a live uncensored show that lets loose the perilous and provocative elements of comedic improvisation on stage with a bunch of puppets. Created by award-winning director, producer, writer and performer **Brian Henson** and actor and improvisational guru **Patrick Bristow**, this one-of-a-kind comedy performance is set for a special 10-week limited engagement kicking off **Wednesday, March 17** at the **Union Square Theatre**. Official Opening takes place Thursday, April 1 at 9:00 PM.

STUFFED AND UNSTRUNG is a madcap multimedia romp in which the skilled art of puppetry and comedic intelligent nonsense collide. Unpredictable, irreverent and rebellious, it's never the same show twice as a team of expert puppeteers sets off on a trail of twisted sketches and songs at breakneck pace while interaction with the audience prompts the spontaneous storylines unfolding on stage.

With live musical accompaniment and Bristow as host, *STUFFED AND UNSTRUNG* features a cast of six puppeteers in an uninhibited live puppet performance, as never seen before. This production serves up "two shows in one" as the hilarious puppet action is projected on large screens flanking the stage, while the puppeteers display their skillful talents below all in full view of the audience.

STUFFED AND UNSTRUNG evolved from Henson's previous production *Puppet Up! – Uncensored*, which made its debut at the 2006 HBO Comedy Festival (Aspen, CO) and later toured the 2006 Edinburgh Festival (Edinburgh, Scotland), The 2007 Comedy Festival (Las Vegas, NV) and Australia's Sydney Big Laugh Comedy Festival and the Melbourne International Comedy Festival (both 2007). Most recently, *Puppet Up* continued to be workshopped in monthly performances at Avalon Hollywood. The New York engagement of *STUFFED AND UNSTRUNG* marks the debut of a completely revamped production featuring all new technical wizardry and original music and staging.

Brian Henson (Executive Producer / Performer) is Chairman of The Jim Henson Company and an award-winning director, producer, writer and performer. Henson served as Executive Producer on the television projects "Farscape: The Peacekeeper Wars" (which he also directed) and "Jim Henson's Jack and the Beanstalk: The Real Story" (which he also co-wrote and directed). He directed "Battleground," an Emmy Award-winning episode of the "Nightmares & Dreamscapes" anthology for TBS. Previous television projects that Henson produced include "Farscape," "Gulliver's Travels," "Muppets Tonight" and "Dinosaurs." Henson's film directing credits include *The Muppet Christmas Carol* and *Muppet Treasure Island*.

Most recently, Henson has served as an executive producer of the Emmy-nominated science-readiness pre-school series "Sid the Science Kid," airing daily on PBS KIDS®. The series features his groundbreaking work at Jim Henson's Creature Shop, one of Hollywood's preeminent character building, digital and physical visual effects facilities. Henson was part of the team that first created and utilized the Henson Performance Control System, a powerful custom-based interface for puppeteers, which won an Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Science Scientific and Engineering Award in 1992. He also led the Shop's work with its revolutionary digital puppeteering technology, the 2009 Emmy® Award-winning Henson Digital Puppetry Studio that is featured on both "Sid the Science Kid" and "Wilson & Ditch: Digging America."

STUFFED AND UNSTRUNG Director and Host **Patrick Bristow** is best known for his numerous television appearances most notably as "Peter" on the groundbreaking ABC series "Ellen." Other television credits include "Curb Your Enthusiasm," "Seinfeld," "Friends," "Mad About You," "Whose Line Is It Anyway?" and others. Film credits include *The Longest Yard*, as well as the first *Austin Powers*, *So I Married An Ax Murderer*, *Twilight of the Golds*, and the accidental comedy *Showgirls*. He is an alum of The Groundlings (Main Company) where he continues to teach and direct improv and sketch comedy. His direction credits include Groundlings: *City of the Future*, *Beyond the Valley of the Deviants*, *Deviant Shores*, *Battle of the Deviants*, the weekly Groundlings Theatre all improv show *Cooking With Gas*, and the 2004 L.A. Weekly Theatre Awards Show. Bristow is currently writing a pilot for FOX with Heather Morgan ("The Comeback") and most recently appeared in the hit musical *The Break-up Notebook* at the Hudson Backstage Theatre in Hollywood.

Henson Alternative is The Jim Henson Company's label for content created specifically and exclusively for adult audiences. Previous credits include "Tinseltown" for Logo, "Puppet Up! – Uncensored" for TBS and the upcoming feature film *Happytime Murders* currently in development.

WestBeth Entertainment, Arnold Engelman – President, is a producing/promoting organization that has successfully and consistently produced critically acclaimed, financially successful, groundbreaking entertainment for 30 years. From Eddie Izzard to Billy Connolly, Mike Myers to Lewis Black, Wigfield to Hedwig, and The Family Guy to Tenacious D, WestBeth has been the creative catalyst, partner and producer of some of the most innovative productions across the nation. Ongoing productions include John Leguizamo's – *The Diary of a Madman* at the La Jolla Playhouse March 4 – 14 2010, *Billy Connolly LIVE* at the Bagley Wright Theatre at Seattle Center March 12 – 13 2010, followed by Lewis Black's – *In God We Rust* at City Center in April. Recent productions include Eddie Izzard's January 2010 US Arena Tour – *The Big Intimacy Tour*, *An Evening Without Monty Python* directed by Eric Idle and BT McNicholl, Eddie Izzard's sold out 34 city 2008 American Tour *STRIPPED*, as well as Billy Connolly's *Too Old To Die Young* (North American Tour); and Lewis Black's *Nothing Sacred* (Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall). Please visit www.westbethent.com for more information.

STUFFED AND UNSTRUNG plays Wednesday through Friday at 9:00 PM, and Saturday at 8:00 PM & 11:00 PM. The **Union Square Theatre** is located at **100 East 17th Street**, just east of Union Square. All preview tickets through Wednesday, March 31 are \$35.00. Additionally, ten \$20 RUSH tickets (first row) are available for each performance (CASH ONLY at the Box Office, one hour before showtime, limit 2 per person). Regular tickets range from \$35.00 – \$50.00. Tickets ON SALE NOW may be arranged through Ticketmaster at www.ticketmaster.com or (212) 307-4100.

The Union Square Box Office opens for *STUFFED AND UNSTRUNG* on Thursday, March 11 at 1:00 PM.

For more information, check out www.StuffedAndUnstrung.com.

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