



For Immediate Release

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**EISEMANN CENTER PRESENTS TONY WINNER “JAY JOHNSON: THE TWO AND ONLY!”
FOR SIX PERFORMANCES FEBRUARY 10-13, 2011**

RICHARDSON, TX — The **ViewPoint Bank Theatre Comedy Series** continues with 2007 Tony Award winner *Jay Johnson: The Two and Only* for six performances running February 10-13, 2011 at the Eisemann Center. Master Ventriloquist Jay Johnson appears and explores his passion and obsession with his art form in this personal odyssey to better understand why ventriloquism exists and why it chose him. In the 95-minute performance, Mr. Johnson examines ventriloquism's history, "Some say it's a physical abnormality, some say it's demon possession;" its dark past originating from soothsayers and necromancers (The Oracle of Delphi, dating back to 1400 BCE) to its evolution as a performance art in the 18th Century. "A grocer named Jacques St.-Gille was a natural born ventriloquist who performed for the local children by making a nutcracker come to life. A young Tchaikovsky based his ballet *The Nutcracker* on the very legend of St-Gille's enchanted nutcracker.

Throughout, Mr. Johnson also shares his personal history. His childhood, "Radio is perfect for a child. It's theatre of the imagination;" as a young performer who is drawn to this unique art, "I don't know why you get the life you get...for some reason ventriloquism chose me;" and his relationship with his mentor, vaudeville ventriloquist/carver Arthur Sieving. "I had never talked to another ventriloquist before. He was 71—I was 18. We were exactly the same age that day."

He tells of how he was cast in the classic television comedy SOAP but his partner Squeaky, who Arthur Sieving had carved just for him, was not right for the part. He looked too sweet. "I wanted this job, but how could I tell Squeaky he didn't get it?"

Mr. Johnson gives astounding and hilarious demonstrations of ventriloquism. Sometimes it is with a traditional ventriloquial partner (Bob, Squeaky) sometimes with an animal hand puppet (a snake, a vulture, a monkey) or with an inanimate object, such as a tennis ball, or nothing at all. All the elements of his art and storytelling culminate and interweave into one final revelatory and not-to-be-missed experience in *Jay Johnson: The Two and Only!*

“Extremely funny! A super virtuoso! I expected to enjoy ‘*The Two and Only*,’ but I didn’t expect to be touched, much less to find my eyes growing moist.”

— *The Wall Street Journal*

Performances are Thur., Feb. 10 at 8:00 pm and Fri., Feb. 11 at 8:00 pm; Sat., Feb. 12 at 2:00 pm and 8:00 pm and Sun., Feb. 13, 2011 at 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm. Tickets are \$34-\$40 and may be purchased at www.eisemanncenter.com or by calling the Eisemann Center Ticket Office at **972-744-4650**. Discounts for groups of 10 or more are available by calling **972-744-4657**.

The Eisemann Center is located in the Galatyn Park Urban Center at 2351 Performance Drive in Richardson, Texas. The Eisemann Center is easily accessible from Highway 75 North taking the Galatyn Parkway/Renner Road exit going north and the Galatyn Parkway/Campbell Road exit going south or from the DART light rail station at Galatyn Park. Title sponsor of the **Theatre Comedy Series** is **ViewPoint Bank**. Sponsors for the 2010-2011 Season include WFAA-TV, *The Dallas Morning News* and ticket sponsor PegasusNews.com.

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