

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

January 2015

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**MEDIA ALERT/PHOTO OPPORTUNITY**

**PAPAYA at the Bride Welcome the Shadow Puppet Theatre of  
Het Filaal's *Miss Ophelia* February 6-8; PAPAYA LAB After Each Performance  
Gives Audiences A Chance Create Own Works**

**WHO:** PA Performing Arts for Young Audiences (PAPAYA) welcomes, Het Filaal, one of Netherlands' premiere theatre companies for young audiences and its playful and shadow-filled *Miss Ophelia* as the second show this season of PAPAYA at the Bride, an International Family Series presented in partnership with the Painted Bride Art Center. Het Filaal comes to the United States exclusively for this PAPAYA engagement.

**WHAT:** Ophelia is going to be a great actress who will travel the world – or at least that is what her parents want for her. When her tiny voice derails the dream, Ophelia stumbles upon a shadow that belongs to no one, and takes the solitary silhouette under her wing. When more shadows arrive, she tucks them into her little purse and soon, unlikely and unforgettable friendships are forged as Ophelia and her sidekicks deliver extraordinary shadow puppet theatre in this heart-warming story full of light.

Direct from The Netherlands, *Miss Ophelia* is adapted from *Ophelia's Shadow Theatre* by Michael Ende – author of *The Neverending Story*. Two talented and nimble performers use lively storytelling, imaginative puppetry, shadows and a beautiful score in this charming and award-winning show that resonates at every age. "One of the best pieces of theatre I have seen in recent years," said Jackie Skinner (National Theatre, London).

**When:** February 6-8

Friday 2/6            10:00 a.m.

Saturday 2/7        2 shows – 1:00 p.m.. and 5:00 p.m.

Sunday 2/8           2 shows - 12:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.

**WHY:** The show has travelled to Dublin, Edinburgh, Malta, Belfast, New York, London, Sydney and Melbourne and is getting rave reviews. In the Netherlands *Miss Ophelia* won the prestigious Zilveren Krekel (Silver Cricket) award for most impressive production.

This season, PAPAYA's artistic team is inventing dynamic interactive experiences, inspiring audiences of all ages to respond to the art they witness on stage. Performances of *Miss Ophelia* will include a talkback with the artists and a chance for audience members to venture into the PAPAYA LAB space to create works of their own. PAPAYA believes that artistic experiences (performances) are triggers for the audience members to explore their own creativity, are opportunities to explore ideas relevant to their lives and their community, and an entry point for multi-generational creative experiences.

### **About Het Filaal**

Het Filaal is the largest children's theatre company in the Netherlands' central region, and is based in the city of Utrecht. The company produces dynamic, playful, life-affirming music theater for young and old audiences, for families and schools, at home and abroad. Het Filaal's work varies from spectacular productions for audiences of a thousand people, to well-considered art projects on a much smaller scale, designed to give children an intensive introduction to every facet of theatre.

Het Filaal's productions have been touring the world for years now, and in 2013 they performed no fewer than 91 times in countries outside the Netherlands. Shows such as *Baron Rabinovitsj*, *Captain Lindbergh's Ocean Flight*, *Miss Ophelia* and *House* toured internationally to the praise of both audiences and press. The artistic team consists of director Monique Corvers, composer Gábor Tarján and object theater maker Ramses Graus. In their work they bring together professional actors, musicians and visual artists. The loving precision and sense of humor with which text, music, acting and visuals are integrated, has come to be the trademark of Het Filaal.

**PAPAYA**, or PA Performing Arts for Young Audiences, is a recently formed partnering organization that co-produces and co-presents performing arts for families and youth that is accessible to all ages, but especially designed to enrich the lives of children by stimulating their imaginations, challenging their minds and touching their deepest emotions. To that end PAPAYA has joined forces with the **Painted**

**Bride Art Center**, Philadelphia's premiere presenter of contemporary artists, to create a series that offers young people and families the chance to experience together outstanding performances by international artists in a variety of artistic genres.

PAPAYA's season is made possible with generous support from the Philadelphia Foundation's Donor Advised Fund, The Philadelphia Cultural Fund, John and Teresa Rollins, GSK, the Virginia & Harvey Kimmel Arts Education Fund, The Connelly Foundation, the Wyncote Foundation, and individuals throughout the region.