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**2010 SEASON:**

*The Velveteen Rabbit* (January 2010)

*The Night Zoo* (on tour March) *Spellbound* (April)

*The Bunyip of Berkeley's Creek* (July) *Blueback* (on tour August)

*Birthday* (September/October) *The Night Zoo* (December/January 2010/11)

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## ***Puppet powerhouse announces 2010 program as 30<sup>th</sup> year looms***

Spare Parts Puppet Theatre has announced its 2010 season focussing on classics from its repertoire, *Spellbound* (2003) and *The Bunyip of Berkeley's Creek* (1998) for the Term 1 & 2 School Holidays as well as a new work, *Birthday* for Term 3 School Holidays in the lead up to the beginning of the company's 30th Year celebrations in 2011.

2010 has already begun with the continuation of its inaugural summer season of *The Velveteen Rabbit* which runs until January 30 at its home theatre in Fremantle. In March, the company will tour the smash hit of 2009, *The Night Zoo* to venues in and around Perth including Midland, Joondalup and Mandurah as well as Margaret River. These mini-seasons are part of an ongoing program to provide further and regular opportunities for metropolitan and regional families to enjoy the work of this home-grown Australian puppetry powerhouse. Later, *The Night Zoo* will also follow *The Velveteen Rabbit's* example and move into the newly created and highly successful festive summer season beginning in December.

For the Term 1 School Holidays (April 2 to 17), the company revives *Spellbound* a magical adventure story about a clumsy clown, Petrushka, a beautiful ballerina, a handsome Moor, Benjamin and the wicked magician, Zenon. Inspired by Igor Stravinsky's famous ballet, *Spellbound* was written by Humphrey Bower. Directed by Philip Mitchell, it features some of the company's finest marionette puppets, which seemingly come alive through exquisite lighting design and the distinctive use of 'black theatre' and Bunraku (traditional Japanese) puppetry techniques.

For the Term 2 School Holidays (July 3 to 17), one of the most endearing classics, *The Bunyip of Berkeley's Creek* will be revived by director, Noriko Nishimoto with original cast members Michael Barlow and Paul Johnson joined by acclaimed musician, Mel Robinson. It features some of the most beautiful of hand-carved puppets as a "who's who" cast of Australian animals, including a naughty echidna, a recalcitrant platypus, a couple of ditzy kangaroos and an assortment of birds, in particular a mad emu, who all try to help, somewhat unsuccessfully, a bewildered bunyip in his search for his identity.

In August, the company will tour Tim Winton's *Blueback* to the Goldfields, upper wheatbelt and lower Gascoyne regions of Western Australia. Meanwhile back home, the company will prepare a new work, *Birthday* about those special moments in everyone's lives for the Term 3 School Holidays, (September 25 to October 9). Directed by Philip Mitchell this celebratory original script will prefigure the following year's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations culminating on the official 30<sup>th</sup> birthday in February, 2012.

Artistic Director of Spare Parts Puppet Theatre, Philip Mitchell said that it was a busy year which would celebrate the great legacy of the company's past as well as look forward to an exciting future. "Spare Parts Puppet Theatre is a remarkable family with a great lineage. It is made up of individuals who have all brought something to the company, from the puppeteers, creative artists and staff to the backstage and front of house crews - and most importantly, the audiences, the children and families of Perth and beyond who have supported and continue to support this remarkable and magical environment and the puppets who really do live in it," he said. "It is our wish that our artistic program for 2010 exceeds your expectations and that the magic of puppetry will help the young stay young and the old grow young forever."

Spare Parts Puppet Theatre is based in Fremantle, Western Australia and is Australia's leading puppetry company, creating entertaining and inspirational theatre for young people and their families. In 2011, the company will begin its celebrations for 30 years of creating quality new Australian puppetry works that excite the way we view our world through image, illusion and entertainment. For more information, please visit [www.sppt.asn.au](http://www.sppt.asn.au) or 9335 5044

Excellent image, photo and interview opportunities are available.  
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