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WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY'S
CENTER FOR THE ARTS PRESENTS A LECTURE/ DEMONSTRATION BY
GREAT SMALL WORKS

New York City-Based Theater Collective Revives the Lost Art of Toy Theater at
Wesleyan

Middletown, Conn., October 10, 2007-- Popular with children and adults in the 19th century, Toy Theater became eclipsed by cinema and other forms of automated entertainment until it was rediscovered by OBIE-winning theater collective Great Small Works in the 1990s, as a technique of responding to the world with low-tech means, recycled materials, and found texts. On Saturday, October 20 this New York City-based group comes to Wesleyan University to present an animated lecture and performance of their work reinventing, reviving, and re-enchanting the puppet genre of Toy Theater.

The Group will perform its signature *Short, Entertaining History of Toy Theater*, alongside *A Walk in the City*, performed by Stephen Kaplin, Mark Sussman (Wesleyan '85), Jenny Romaine, and John Bell. The company will also be joined by a group of Wesleyan students performing a series of short works created in a three-day quick-and-dirty workshop in this technique.

Admission to Great Small Works is free. The performances take place Saturday, October 20 at 7pm in Wesleyan's World Music Hall, located at 283 Washington Terrace in Middletown, CT. For more information call the Wesleyan Box Office at 860-685-3355 or visit www.wesleyan.edu/cfa.

About Great Small Works

Great Small Works was founded in 1995 as a collective of artists who keep theater at the heart of social life. Drawing on folk, avant-garde, and popular theater traditions to address contemporary issues, the company performs in theaters, clubs, schools, galleries, streets, and other community centers. Based in New York City, they produce performance works on a wide variety of scales, from outdoor pageants with giant puppets and hundreds of performers from diverse communities, to miniature "toy theater" spectacles. Great Small Works productions consistently reinvent ancient, popular theater techniques: Toy Theater, mask and object theater, circus, sideshow, and picture-show (cantastoria) to name a few. On any scale, Great Small Works productions seek to renew, cultivate, and strengthen the spirits of their audiences, promoting theater as a model for reanimating the public sphere and participating in democratic life.

For more information about The Civilians, visit <http://www.greatsmallworks.org/>

Photo Courtesy of Great Small Works

This event is part of the Center for the Arts' 2007-2008 *Outside the Box* theater series co-sponsored by Wesleyan's Theater Department.

The Center for the Arts is an 11-building complex on the Wesleyan campus that houses the departments of art and art history, music, theater and dance as well as film studies events and classes. The CFA includes the 400-seat Theater, the 260-seat Cinema, World Music Hall (a non-Western performance space), the 414-seat Crowell Concert Hall and the Ezra and Cecile Zilkha Gallery.