

# Kawamoto: The Puppet Master

Cinékids: Claymation Classics + Puppet-making Workshop PG

Watershed Sat 15 March 1300hrs



As a special part of the **Kawamoto: The Puppet Master** programme, this month's Cinékids – a Watershed initiative that features monthly events aimed at children between 8 and 12 years old – will present a selection of British animation classics, featuring such lovable Claymation characters as **Sludger the Aardvark** in **Hamilton Mattress**, **Wallace and Gromit** in **The Wrong Trousers**, and **Morph**.

Following the screening, the audience will be invited to participate in an engaging and educational puppet-making workshop led by Bristol based Lou Gray, an experienced set and costume designer for organisations such as Creative Partnerships, English Touring Opera, E.N.O. and the V&A- Museum of Childhood. With all manner of inspiring puppet-making materials from paint to felt, the workshop will offer the chance for children to bring their imaginations to life with their own colourful character creations.

**Hamilton Mattress** tells the story of Sludger (voiced by David Thewlis) an aardvark with a keen talent for drumming and amazing rhythmical ability. After catching the attention of a talent agent named Feldwick C. Hackenbush (**Henry Goodman**), who just happens to be a caterpillar, the offbeat pair head from their outback home to meet the in-crowd of Beak City, a land occupied solely by birds, where an ambitious Feldwick hopes to find Sludgers a job as a drumming extraordinaire. As he attempts to break onto the entertainment circuit, Sludger must decide whether fame and fortune is important enough to change everything that makes him unique.

This visually engaging modern fable presents a colourful, chaotic and appealing world that twists from Hamilton's relatively plain hometown to the visual splendor of Beak City, peppering the story with infectious dance rhythms from musicians/artistes **Spiro**, **Wix** and **Ogada** and comedic voiceovers from **David Thewlis**. A cheering half-hour of stop-frame animation, the film will please both children and adults alike.

The programme will also feature **Aardman Animations'** classic, **The Wrong Trousers**, starring the loveable plasticine duo of **Wallace and Gromit**. In this Oscar winning story, long-suffering canine Gromit finds himself being pushed out of his room and home by a new lodger who is actually a ruthless criminal – and a small penguin. The penguin is planning a robbery and needs to use Wallace and his mechanical remote-controlled trousers to pull off the raid. In the tradition of the hapless pair, it falls to Gromit to save both the day and his all too oblivious owner.

- Ends -

### Notes to editors:

- For any further information and/or images please contact Jenny Crook [jenny.crook@watershed.co.uk](mailto:jenny.crook@watershed.co.uk) or Louise Gardner [louise@watershed.co.uk](mailto:louise@watershed.co.uk) or call (0117) 927 6444.
- Fee: £2.00 per child / £3.50 per adult (must be accompanied by a child). To book tickets, please call Watershed Box Office on 0117 927 5100.
- See [www.watershed.co.uk/kawamoto](http://www.watershed.co.uk/kawamoto) for further information on the Kawamoto: The Puppet Master season.
- For further information about Japanese cinema, please see [www.midnighteye.com](http://www.midnighteye.com)

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