



**Mississippi
Arts+
Entertainment
Experience** SM

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Suspense, Whimsy, Humor in Children’s Picture Books

Adventures in the Imagination, by Chuck Galey, opens November 23 at The MAX

MERIDIAN, Miss. (November 1, 2021) – As a kid in Greenwood, Mississippi, who drew incessantly, even during sermons at church, Chuck Galey had no idea that anyone could make a living doing art. A new exhibition of his children’s book illustrations at The MAX tickles the imaginations of both children and their parents – and shows today’s art-loving kids how to create their own success.

“I never had anybody to come around Greenwood that I know of that was actually an author or an illustrator to show that there’s actually a person behind that book,” Galey said. That’s why he’s also leading a workshop at The MAX to teach children on how to make and illustrate their own books.

The exhibition, which opens November 23, is called *Adventures in the Imagination*. It features original illustrations from Galey’s published books – both digital art and pen and ink drawings with watercolor. The artist also gives insights into his creative process by including works in progress.

“*Adventures in the Imagination* is a wonderful exhibit that sparks the imagination, allowing you to create your own story around the artwork,” said Stacey Wilson, Curator of Exhibitions at The MAX.

Galey, a graduate of Mississippi State University, now lives in Jackson, Mississippi. He had planned a career as an oceanographer – until he discovered that he suffered terribly from seasickness. So he went back to school and returned to his first love, art.



He has illustrated more than 70 books for educational publishers as well as 15 children’s books, one of which he also wrote. He finds the process challenging and rewarding. He grounds his storytelling in universal themes and adds plenty of humor, trying to inspire children to become lifelong readers.

He also presents workshops on the importance of illustration and visual storytelling in picture books to everyone from kindergarteners to adults.

Adventures in the Imagination will be on display at the Mississippi Arts + Entertainment Experience, commonly known as The MAX, from November 23, 2021-March 12, 2022.

Related programming:

Children's Book Illustration Workshop with Chuck Galey, December 4, 2021, 10 a.m.-noon

Galey will lead a workshop on how to create a book, the process of drawing, and the basic concepts of illustration. Recommended ages: 10-12. Limited capacity. Registration required.

About The MAX

The Mississippi Arts + Entertainment Experience explores the state's creative legacies in one immersive attraction. Come discover the Mississippi roots of some of the world's arts and entertainment icons – Elvis Presley, Oprah Winfrey, B.B. King, Faith Hill, Sela Ward, Margaret Walker, Eudora Welty, and Jim Henson, to name just a few.

Admission to the special exhibit is free with regular museum admission. The MAX is open Tuesday through Saturday from 9 am-5 pm. The museum is located at the corner of Sela Ward Parkway (22nd Avenue) and Front Street, overlooking the railroad at the edge of Meridian's historic downtown. Street parking is available, with shops and restaurants within walking distance. For more information visit msarts.org or call 601-581-1550.

Image credits (left to right): Interior illustration for the picture book Jazz Cats, Chuck Galey, 2001, acrylic on paper; The Fat Stock Stampede at the Houston Rodeo, Chuck Galey, 2008, acrylic on paper

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