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RAGGEDY ANN WITHOUT ANDY?
NOT AT THE 18TH ORIGINAL RAGGEDY ANN AND ANDY
FESTIVAL IN ARCOLA, ILLINOIS

FESTIVAL TO CIRCULATE PETITION TO HELP INDUCT RAGGEDY ANDY
INTO THE NATIONAL TOY HALL OF FAME

Arcola, IL: Every year, throngs of Raggedy Ann and Andy fans flock to Arcola, Illinois to celebrate the beloved rag doll duo. This year's festival, taking place on June 9th and 10th, is packed with fun filled activities, magic shows, jugglers, contests, scrumptious food, a collectibles tent and even a tea party! In honor of BOTH Raggedy Ann and Andy, this perennial event captures the rag dolls' essence of love, friendship, imagination and playfulness that Johnny Gruelle made famous in the Raggedy Ann and Andy books. The festival is also a perfect place for fans to sign the petition asking the National Toy Hall of Fame to induct Raggedy Andy in with the ranks of other toy icons such as his sister Raggedy Ann.

"It is thrilling to see how many fans make their way to the Original Raggedy Ann and Andy Festival to show their devotion and have a good time," said Joni Gruelle, granddaughter of Raggedy Ann and Andy creator, Johnny Gruelle. "Each year the festival grows, as more and more lovers of Raggedy Ann and Andy come out to enjoy all of the wholesome festivities. This June we are expecting a large turn out, especially since there are many who want to sign the petition to help induct Raggedy Andy into the National Toy Hall of Fame."

After five long years of separation, a campaign has been launched to reunite the rag dolls with a petition that will lead, hopefully, to the induction of Raggedy Andy in the National Toy Hall of Fame in Rochester, NY. Over 3,300 fans and supporters of Raggedy Andy have already signed the petition, which began in February at FAO Schwarz in New York. In 2002, Raggedy Ann was inducted with over 30,000 signatures, separating the brother and sister, breaking poor Raggedy Andy's *I love you* heart!

How to Sign the Petition:

If you'd like to support Raggedy Ann & Andy's Toy Hall of Fame petition, log onto www.raggedyann-museum.org to sign the petition or you can mail letters urging the National Toy Hall of Fame to include Raggedy Andy to the following address: Petition

for Raggedy Andy c/o The Johnny Gruelle Raggedy Ann and Andy Museum, 110 Main Street, P.O. Box 183, Arcola, IL 61910.

About The Festival:

The festival kicks off on June 8th, Friday night, with a special dinner and Raggedy auction from 6-9pm. Through out the weekend various events are scheduled, including “Camel with the Wrinkled Knees” Tea Party, Sunday Brunch with the Gruelle Family and the Raggedy Toyland Parade. The parade will begin at 3:00pm on Saturday, June 9th: Floats, bands and Raggedy Look-a-likes will march down Main Street, spreading Raggedy happiness to bystanders. The tea party will be held at various times on Saturday and Sunday. The Raggedy tent will host a plethora of Raggedy Ann and Andy collectibles as well as crafts from unique Raggedy designers. Family fun will include a children’s craft tent, mini racers, magic shows, a kiddy tractor pull, pony rides, jugglers and much more. Information on the festival or a specific event is available through the Arcola Chamber of Commerce at www.arcolachamber.com or by calling 1-800-336-5456.

About Raggedy Ann and Andy:

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