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**State Museum Opens New Exhibit Featuring Original Silhouettes by Lowcountry Artist and Author, Clay Rice**

*The museum will also host a silhouette cutting and book signing event on Saturday, April 26*

**Columbia, S.C., Wednesday, March 12, 2014** – The South Carolina State Museum opens its newest changing exhibit, *Mama, Let's Make a Moon*, on Friday, March 21. The exhibit will feature original illustrations from Lowcountry award-winning artist and children's book author, Clay Rice.

Taken from the pages of Rice's new children's book, [Mama, Let's Make a Moon](#), these original hand-cut illustrations artfully weave their way through the mountains of the Appalachia to bring the characters towards core family values such as love of family, making something from nothing and just plain having fun.

"We're excited to host Clay Rice, who is carrying on a distinguished tradition of great art in South Carolina," said Paul Matheny, chief art curator, S.C. State Museum. "He is a storyteller, and his talent manifests itself in a variety of ways. He is most well-known as a silhouette artist, but that art carries straight over into his children's books and his ability to tell stories through songs."

In conjunction with the exhibit, the museum is hosting a silhouette cutting and book signing event on Saturday, April 26. This is an opportunity for guests to bring their children to the museum to have their silhouette portrait made by Clay Rice. Rice will also be onsite signing copies of *Mama, Let's Make a Moon*. Space is limited, so please reserve your portrait sitting today. The available time slots are between 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. The silhouette cuttings are \$42 for two copies of the same person and \$10 for each additional copy. Please call (803) 898-4967 or email [lorraine.glandon@scmuseum.org](mailto:lorraine.glandon@scmuseum.org) to reserve your spot.

Rice is considered by many to be the finest silhouette artist in the world. He has been described by South Carolina author, Pat Conroy, as, "a great talent who combines soul and passion." In addition to his silhouette talents learned from his grandfather, renowned artist, Carew Rice, Clay Rice has written songs since his teens, and the rhythm and rhyme of the verses in his books read like the lyrics of a children's fantasy song set to paper.

Both Rice and his grandfather's silhouettes are represented in the State Museum's permanent collection. Guests can see Rice's 2006 steel silhouette titled, "Lowcountry Sunrise" on the museum's first floor across from the Lipscomb Art Gallery.

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The exhibit can be seen through Sunday, June 29 and is included with museum general admission or membership. For additional information about the exhibit and Clay Rice's book signing and silhouette cutting, visit [scmuseum.org/exhibits](http://scmuseum.org/exhibits).

***About the South Carolina State Museum:*** *On Oct. 29, 1988, the South Carolina State Museum opened its doors, bringing to the citizens of the Palmetto State the newest, and one of the finest, state museums in America. The Museum has four large floors devoted to the disciplines of art, history, natural history and science/technology. It houses both long-term exhibits and changing exhibit galleries. For more information about the museum, visit [scsmuseum.org](http://scsmuseum.org) or follow @SCStateMuseum on Twitter.*

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**PHOTO OUTLINE:**

**Mama, Let's Make a Moon:**

The South Carolina State Museum opens its newest changing exhibit, *Mama, Let's Make a Moon*, Friday, March 21. The exhibit displays the amazing and charming silhouettes of Lowcountry artist, Clay Rice, considered by some to be the world's greatest living silhouette artist. Visit [scmuseum.org/exhibits](http://scmuseum.org/exhibits) to learn more. *Photo courtesy of the S.C. State Museum*