

# PRESS RELEASE

(October 25, 2022)



photo credit: Max Haynes; 2017 Extravaganza, **Croak**  
Whale skeleton puppet by artist Theresa Linnihan

## BareBones presents its 29th Annual Extravaganza: a spectacle puppet pageant that honors the seasonal themes of the Fall!

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After two years of modified show formats (to accommodate public safety around COVID-19), BareBones returns to its roots with a community-created spectacle pageant of larger-than-life puppetry, drama, stilting, dance, fire, song, and music. For 2022, we are also offering this year's production in a new space, the Minneapolis Midtown Greenway.

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Gustavo Boada is a long-time BareBones staff artist, who participated in both the modified 2020 and 2021 productions. Boada welcomes back the public collaboration of the pageant format, saying "coming back after the Pandemic, BareBones is reopening the connection, the dialogue,

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the binding vessels with our community in our own language and elements rooted in our local and universal tradition.”

Co-Directors Michelle Elliott and Kenneth Rivera are relatively new to BareBones and bring a fresh perspective to the show with backgrounds in musical theater and art education. In keeping with BareBones’ celebration of the cycle of life with its arc of death in autumn, Elliot says, “The theme of the festival is an exploration of growing larger to hold grief and utilizing images of bears, deer, and birds. Additional themes include the changing of the seasons and the connections between the living world, death, ancestors, and grief.”

Arwen Wilder, BareBones Board Co-Chair, says of 2022’s new venue, the Midtown Greenway, “Presenting Barebones in this area for the last two years felt like bringing love and beauty and healing attention to the devastation and ruins of our neighborhoods after George Floyd’s murder. We are happy to remain in this general area and keep bringing the love and the beauty where it is needed. The Greenway Coalition is happy for us to be there, and this spot in particular is exciting for its aesthetic allowances and its accessibility.”

### **Show Dates and Location**

Four shows: Fri, October 28 • Sat, October 29 • Sun, October 30 • Mon, October 31  
7pm - 8pm  
On the Midtown Greenway – 2828 11th Avenue S, Mpls, MN

Full event details can be found at [barebonespuppets.org/2022-show/](https://barebonespuppets.org/2022-show/)

### **Ticket Sales**

Ticket sales for the 2022 Extravaganza will open online at [barebonespuppets.org/](https://barebonespuppets.org/), on September 30, 2022. Tickets will be \$20 per person, and in keeping with BareBones value of inclusion, no one will be turned away for lack of funds. Seating is limited, so the public is encouraged to get tickets when they become available.

In addition to embracing a new performance site, for the first time in its history, BareBones is selling tickets to its premiere event. The majority of BareBones’ funding has always come from gate donations at shows. The past two years of alternative formats, however, did not allow for a gate – instead, BareBones dug deep into its reserves. Of this, Wilder says, “the Extravaganza is always a gift of our time and creative energy. Two years in a row, when the city felt in tatters we gave our art and organizing as a literal gift. This year we have to charge a ticket price to pay our artists and costs.”

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## **Community Events**

BareBones is excited to reconvene public gatherings where volunteers can help make puppets, perform, or support a number of other show needs. Community builds and rehearsals are scheduled throughout September and October and listed on [barebonespuppets.org/community-calendar/](https://barebonespuppets.org/community-calendar/).

## **About the Co-Directors**



photo credit: Molly DeBower; left to right: Michelle Elliott, Kenneth Rivera

**Michelle Elliott** is a book writer and lyricist who has written seven musicals with her longtime collaborator, Danny Haengil Larsen. Michelle and Danny's work has received a Jonathan Larson Award, the Kleban Award for Most Promising Librettist and a Richard Rodgers Development Award. Their latest work, *Hart Island*, was presented as part of the 2020 NAMT Festival of New Musicals. *Maiden Voyage*, their exploration of the lives of two notorious female pirates, is being developed for a 2024 premiere in Denmark and the two are currently working on a new musical entitled *Country Radio* with Emily Saliers of the Indigo Girls.

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**Kenneth Antonio Rivera** is an artist, community leader and educator who has a strong passion for the students in Minneapolis. He believes teaching art is a practice and that encouraging youth to express, explore and develop artistic skill helps them build a foundation for mindful learning. The arts are the cornerstone of communication and everyone has a unique story to tell. Kenneth loves to center youth stories through his work in education and community building. His personal work uses painting to process dreams and nightmares. Through an exploration of identity, family, and love, his plays between the worlds of waking and dreaming with a fantastical style. Ugliness and beauty swirl together, speaking to the power our minds have to imagine, to frighten, and ultimately to heal.

### **Artistic Staff**

Artists	Eva Adderley	Artists	Kainoa Ruvivar
	Margaret Arbeiter		Fletcher Wolfe
	Gustavo Boada		
	Zarra TM	Build Intern	Marcela Becerra
	Mary Jo Nikolai		
	Mark Safford	Music Director	Carlisle Evans Peck

BareBones offers art programming and supports artists and fosters community partnerships to make art more accessible to all. We ask the public for support of our ongoing commitment and event this year. Donate online at [barebonespuppets.org/](http://barebonespuppets.org/).

### **PARTNERS & SPONSORS**



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