



BareBones Productions

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October 2021

Dear Friends of the BareBones Halloween Extravaganza,

BareBones is BACK!

Now IS THE TIME to donate to BareBones Puppets! Our Rainy Day fund is gone. We will not have a gate this year, our greatest source of income. PLEASE GIVE NOW, because we cannot survive without you, your support, and \$\$\$\$\$

For 26 years the BareBones Halloween Extravaganza has been held in Hidden Falls Park, or other outdoor areas throughout the Twin Cities. It was a 5-day performance spectacle of fire, stilt walking, bike puppets, illuminated puppetry, and a celebration of our ancestors. The audience was seated under the stars, and always had the opportunity to call out the names of their own beloved dead. You know the beauty and the magic of it, you were there.

After 18 months of hardship due to the CoronaVirus, the uprising, destruction and racial reckoning in the Twin Cities, our arts scene is in a massive transformational process. Many days I find myself thinking of loved ones who have passed away, or remembering good things that are now gone.

The Twin Cities are famous for their Pageant Puppetry scene world-wide. As a puppeteer with BareBones - and a former puppeteer with the Heart of the Beast Theatre, I have had the delight of leading student groups marching in HOBt's May Day Parade, and have built bike puppet contraptions seen at BareBones, and rolled colorful puppets all over town. BareBones wisely has had a rainy day fund, in case we had a bad weather year, due to thoughtful management by the BareBones Board. Then 2020 happened.

Many members of our BareBones community were living at ground zero during the fires and unrest that both transformed and devastated our city. At the height of the pandemic, amidst the rubble, before a vaccine was available, BareBones reorganized to provide a new kind of experience: "Offerings: Artists respond to the Mourning, Grieving and Fires on Lake Street," 40 diverse artist performances and installations - and was awarded Artist of the Year with Masanari Kawahara by the Star Tribune. We fulfilled our mission, but our ability to hold any large community events was impossible.

This year BareBones wants to create a collective LIVE experience again! Xochi de la Luna, Adrianna Cerrillo, and I stepped forward to lead and create something new. Part of making sure that everyone feels welcome is dropping the word Halloween from our name to become simply The Barebones Extravaganza. We believe we can still carry out our mission without the word Halloween, which is specific to one culture. In following our

eclectic Barebones traditions, **all are welcome to celebrate with us.** This year, we are collaborating to create a procession and festival with the theme of “¡El Grito de los Ancestros!” “The Cry of the Ancestors!” And sponsoring many cultural groups to join us!

We are raising money to include Indigenous, Latine, Afro Black, Asian, East African, LGBTQ+ as well as Puppets in our Procession and Festival!

This will be a one day, all ages event, Sunday October 31. Our Procession will begin at Powderhorn Park at Noon, and walk or bike to Chicago and Lake Street, where we will have a free event, Festival de las Calaveras, organized by Deborah Ramos. This will be followed by a BareBones concert and cabaret. There will be a calling of the names at the Ancestor Concert. You are invited to participate in any or all parts noon-10 PM.

We will also be meeting Sunday Afternoons in Powderhorn Park, 1-3 pm, in September and October, 33rd Street and 10th Ave (westside.) Please join us! We are unable to offer a common build space due to the Corona, but we can gather safely outside, build community with movement, song, education and paper mache. All are welcome.

GRACIAS and let's get to work to create something beautiful, powerful, inclusive and healing to make long lasting impactful change in our incredible city! We keep the knowledge of community building through puppetry art alive!

Love ~ and Puppets!

Mina Leierwood, Barebones Director of Procession
With

Xochi de la Luna, Director of Festival
Adriana Cerrillo, Director of Culture

Peter Schulze, Co-Chair, Barebones Board



Arwen Wilder, Co-Chair, Barebones Board



BareBones Mission: To bring art into community and community into art through movement, puppetry and spectacle performance; creative re-use, education, and collaboration.

BareBones Productions is a 501(3)c non-profit organization and donations are tax deductible.