

THE CARPETBAG BRIGADE
PHYSICAL THEATER

*"...transcending borders,
creating culture..."*





TABLE OF CONTENTS

HISTORY AND MISSION	3
PERFORMANCE DETAILS	4
TECH RIDER - THE CARPETBAG BRIGADE	5
TECH RIDER ... CONTINUED	6
TESTIMONIALS.....	7
MEDIA LIBRARY	8
PERFORMANCE HISTORY	9
DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHY	10
CORE MEMBERS	11
'CALLINGS' PROJECT MEMBERS.....	12
CONTACT	13

HISTORY AND MISSION

Distinctive for breadth and synthesis of diverse performance modalities The Carpetbag Brigade creates versatile spectacle-based outdoor performances and intimate indoor self-devised performances. Acrobatic stilt-dancing, butoh dance, contact improvisation, musical composition and physical theater form the basis of their aesthetic approach.

True pioneers at the art of acrobatic stilt dancing - The Carpetbag Brigade masters a unique theatrical language in the delicate overlap of theater, dance and circus. Rising with beauty, falling with grace and conjuring ephemeral magic with the movement and action of their powerful bodies, the performers emanate and pulse like the sea at twilight. Balancing intensely raw and precarious physical expression with sublime dramatic imagery, a Carpetbag Brigade performance fosters a sense of psychic intimacy, poetic dialogue, and mythic imagery indoors or outdoors and excels in a full spectrum of venues.

An integrative cultural force with a mission to present work in a diverse array of venues and environments The Carpetbag Brigade increases the quality, scope and impact of live performance culture through performer training, community outreach and aesthetic presentation. Our platform engages people of differing cultural backgrounds to share, create, express and reflect on common experiences. By utilizing performance art and its pedagogy as a tool to transcend language, class, and environmental background The Carpetbag Brigade aspires to evolve the role of performance culture and ensemble practice as a fundamental aspect of a healthy society.





CALLINGS

PERFORMANCE DETAILS

Acrobatic Stilt Spectacle Based Drama for Proscenium Stage and Open Air Events

Directed by Jay Ruby and Designed by The Carpetbag Brigade
Costumes by Bad Unkl Sista, Aurelia Cohen and Helen Goodrum
Soundtrack arranged and compiled by Isabelle Kirouac and Christopher Mankowski

If the ocean were ill, would she weep?

If clouds were riddles,, would we listen?

If a sailor survived a siren's song, would words adorn the saline tongue?

'Callings' is a poetic homage to the sirens of the sea. Inspired by the challenge of climate change it speaks in transformational metaphors using the craft of acrobatic stilt dancing. The ghost of a sea captain and the primal siren of the sea confront the sailors of commerce, seducing them into the awakening that the ocean is a living being.

"Whose words are these when no one speaks?" mutters the ghost of a sea captain meandering on the sea floor. The siren sings in return... "What might you see when you close your eyes?" An uneasy truce evolves between the eternal and the forgotten, together they conspire to foment a salt-coated cocktail of whispers, warnings and invocations conjured with the watery wrists of ceaselessly undulating waves. A tempest to tame the fools that fashion the world for profit. Above them sailors ply the seas of commerce, turning the wheels of industry... ignorant of the storm brewing in the depths they float upon. A transformative contagion is bubbling up from the depths as the ghost captain returns in Rimbaud's drunken boat to the frigates of commerce seducing sailors into sirens with songs of salvation from the rising waters...the sea is alive! Alive you see! Alive like you! And Alive like...

TECH RIDER - THE CARPETBAG BRIGADE

Total Duration: 50 minutes

1 Act (no interval - continuous presentation)

All Ages Circus/Dance/Theater

Number of performers: 5 + 1 reserve for extended tours

1 Tour Manager

Stage Requirements: 12m x 12m flat (non-slip) surface with a height of at least 4 m (5m and higher preferred). The Carpetbag Brigade is capable of performing on dance Marley, concrete, wood, asphalt (with no loose stones) and requires that the stage is dry for the safety of the performers.

NOTE - Carpetbag Brigade is **unable** to perform on uneven surfaces (i.e holes/cracks/grates/tree roots/curbs/grass), slopped stages, sand, polished tiles/floors and surfaces with high density of stones/gravel/dirt. Correspondence and photos regarding stage space and performance surface required as part of production dialogue to be conducted before or/and during contract negotiations. (The safety of the stage for the performers and the spectators is of utmost importance - a thorough review of any critical issues regarding the stage space facilitates a mutual understanding of the requirements for high quality production and safety). In the event of rain, Carpetbag Brigade holds the decision of their safety to perform.

Load in Requirements: Storage for all equipment made available either 3 hours before 1st sound check/dress rehearsal and at least 1 day before initial performance. Meeting(s) arranged with tech, sound and lighting director and stage manager prior to 1st sound check/dress rehearsal.

Equipment: 6 pairs of stilts / Costumes / 4 Oars / 1 rope / 1 wooden board. 7 luggage cases. Total volume (in m3): 2. Total Weight 80kg

Rehearsal Requirements: 1.5 hour total with competent authorized sound technician (1/2 hour for wireless mic sound check and microphone set up) 1 hour for full run through - 3 sound cues to learn.





TECH RIDER ... CONTINUED

Sound Requirements: Fully functional sound system to adequately present text and music to your audience. 1x cordless headset microphone. Input jack compatible with laptop/iPod/MP3. NOTE - in certain instances a wireless mic will not be necessary.

Lighting Requirements: For shows requiring lighting (outdoor evening and indoor performances) a minimum of 2 additional hours with a lighting technician is required (1 hour discussion and 1 hour run through to be done as same time as sound technician run through). Deeply textured lighting (i.e. more than 1 setting) requires advance correspondence with the lighting director, whom will be asked to watch a video presentation of the performance.

NOTE - If lighting is required additional time for moving and setting lights needs to be done prior to rehearsal and a discussion needs to be initiated around the topic during contract negotiations.

Pre show requirements: 2 hour pre show access to indoor green room. Green room with mirror, table and toilet access. Water required. Nuts and Fruits appreciated. Access to stage is not required during this time. We request that space be provided for the company to stretch and warm up before performing. Access preferred 3 hours before show.

Post show requirements: 1 hour. Access to green room.

Stage Management: Stage manager or assistants must strike props and stilts off stage after performance ends.

Travel and Housing: Housing and per diems or 3 meals a day for the whole group. Round trip airplane tickets and local transportation when necessary for the whole company.

TESTIMONIALS

"The true magic of this performance was not in the acrobatics or feats of strength and movement. It was in the beautiful building of tension and anticipation that the performers were activity whipping up in their audience. "Mesmerizing" is the word that comes to mind, but that would be a crime of understatement."

- John Tannous, Director Flagstaff Cultural Partners

"The sheer visual of dancers on stilts willing to sacrifice their bodies and their breath for their art makes Callings a worthwhile odyssey the audience feels as if they too have been taken in by these dancing sirens."

- Kelley Crawford, Fringe Binge

"It [Callings] is a combination of dance and theater, a representation of reality, which ultimately responds in unison with the applause of the audience."

- Angela Patrica Jimenez Castro, Textos Colombia

"Callings, a piece on superstition and then search for meaning, is lyrical, acrobatic, and extreme, using ropes and oars to evoke the ocean as the dancers tower in the airy reaches of artificial height"

- SF Weekly

"By mixing the social mission of theater with high quality performance, The Carpetbag Brigade brings cutting edge, original work to audiences of all ages, backgrounds, and locales."

- Carole Brodsky, Ukiah Daily Journal,

"The Carpetbag Brigade's movements were sensual, fluid, dream-like and balletic, made all the more so by the long legs and pointed toes of the stilts."

- Summer Stage, NYC





CALLINGS

MEDIA LIBRARY

High Resolution Photographs

'Callings' Promotional Video

Full Length Video - 'Callings'

Carpetbag Brigade Promotional Video Wheel

Carpetbag Brigade Website

Press Articles and Reviews

Carpetbag Brigade Promotional Booklet

PERFORMANCE HISTORY

2017: Stockton International Riverside Festival, Merchant City Festival and Rose Bruford College - UK, Antagon Theater and At:tension Festival - Germany

2016: Chalk the Block Festival - Texas, Mirabilia Festival - Italy. Sommerwerf - Germany. Ana Desetnica International Street Theater Festival - Slovenia. Global Stilt Congress - Arizona. NaCl Theater - New York

2015: Fayette County Trust - Pennsylvania. Global Stilt Congress - Arizona. National Performance Network supported tour of Colombia hosted by Teatro Taller: Calle Arriba Calle Abajo, Antioquia Festival, Al Aire Puro, Festival Internacional de Teatro del Caribe, Festival Internacional de Manizales.

2014: International Sonoran Desert Alliance, Rhythm Industries, Arcosanti, SPARK! Creativity Festival - Arizona. Ko Festival and Earthdace - Massachusetts. Bread and Puppet - Vermont. Canadian Tour hosted by Circus Stella: Dieppe Circus Festival, 150th Confederation Celebration, Congres Mondial Acadienne.

2013: US Bi Cultural Road Show tour nationally supported by Southern Exposure and National Endowment for the Arts. Tsunami on the Square, Pit Fire Festival and Flagstaff Cultural Partners and Firefly Festival - Arizona. San Francisco International Arts Festival and Yerba Buena Gardens Festival - California. Santa Fe Railyard, National Hispanic Cultural Center and Taos Brewing Company - New Mexico. Summer Stage - New York.

2012: Festival Iberoamericano de Teatro de Bogota - Colombia. San Francisco International Arts Festival Double Bill Tour of Northern California with Teatro Taller de Colombia. New Orleans Fringe Festival - Louisiana

2011: Elks Opera House - Arizona. US Embassy supported Colombia tour hosted by Teatro Taller: Calle Arriba Calle Abajo, Antioquia Festival, Al Aire Puro, Festival de Santander, Festival Internacional de Teatro del Caribe, Festival Internacional de Manizales. Sleepless Night Festival - Miami Beach, Florida





DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHY

JAY RUBY

Jay Ruby choreographs action to animate social space and invigorate collective reflection. He cultivates spectacle based drama to engage in festal culture and site-responsive performance as an aspect of contemporary ritual. Ruby applies modalities of theater, circus and dance to address the inequities and wounds of our times.

As founder and director of The Carpetbag Brigade (TCB) he stewarded the company since its inception in Prescott, Arizona in 1997. The company, host and founder of the free all-ages festival Tsunami on the Square transitioned to become an international touring company. Known for its innovative and pioneering use of acrobatic stilting outside of non-traditional venues Ruby has nurtured TCB's unique style of performance by integrating the traditions of acrobatic stilts, butoh dance, contact improvisation and physical theater.

As artistic and executive director of TCB he facilitated the direction of the international touring performances Mudfire, He stewarded the development of Carpetbag Brigade's cross cultural approach and envisioned the Bi Cultural Road Show and Global Stilt Congress network.

Ruby has led collaborations and conducted workshops with diverse performance companies including Flam Chen, NaCl, Hand2Mouth, Sojourner Theater, Wise Fool, Bright Night International, Crimson Coast Dance Society, Pandoum Theater, Teatro Taller de Colombia, Mondo Bizarro, Q-Staff, Brooklyn Jumbies, Grotest Maru, Water in the Desert and Nemcatocoa Cultural Group. He organized and presided over TCB's 4 month residency at UNESCO's Universal Forum of the Cultures in Mexico in 2007. He regularly organizes intensive seminars and laboratories to share the seeds of TCB's work and has been invited to teach in Europe, North and South America.

Jay Ruby has a B.A. in Psychology from Antioch College and studied theater in Berlin, Germany at Theater Zerbrochene Fenster and later with Roberta Carreri of the Odin Teatret in Holstebro, Denmark. His theatrical training has been informed by study with David Clarkson of Stalker Theater, Diego Pinon Ritual Butoh Mexicano, Contact Improvisation practitioners Steve Paxton and Nancy Stark Smith as well as travel to examine ritual and performance in Bali and Mexico. Jay practices Ashtanga Yoga and Vipassana.

COMPANY MEMBERS

HELEN GOODRUM

[Helen Goodrum](#) graduated with a Dance Bachelor of Arts (Honors) from Roehampton University London, UK & commenced a modern dance career with Crimson Coast Dance, Canada. Exposure to stilts prompted her to explore the integration of dance & acrobatics at Greentop Circus, England. As an international freelance performer, choreographer & creative developer Helen collaborates with diverse companies teaching & performing worldwide. An active full time core member of The Carpetbag Brigade Physical Theater & the company's Marketing & Communications Director, Helen is a leading artist in the field of acrobatic stilt dancing. She forges innovative development in the field through her teaching, training, collaboration & performance. Helen co-directs, organizes & teaches as part of the [Global Stilt Congress](#), a gathering of international stilts. Helen's research of the human body & movement education is supplemented by her qualifications as a Rolfing® Structural Integration Practitioner, Rolf Movement™ Practitioner & Reiki Master/Teacher. She is inspired by further research with the Axis Syllabus International Research Community & Contact Improvisation dance.

ALICIA GERSTEIN

Alicia Gerstein first learned how to walk on stilts as a child at Bread & Puppet Theater, and much later began exploring techniques combining physical theater, acrobatics, and dance, with Nemcatocoa Teatro (Bogota, Colombia) and The Carpetbag Brigade. She performs as part of both of these companies, in Colombia and the US. She has been a puppeteer for many years with Bread & Puppet Theater (Glover, VT), Great Small Works (Brooklyn, NY), El Teatro Indigena de la Sierra Tarahumara (Chihuahua, Mexico), and other puppet theaters. Alicia also works as a teaching artist in public schools in New York City, where she lives.





COMPANY MEMBERS

LEVANA PRUD'HOMME

Levana Irena Prud'homme is dedicated to the continual study and sharing of holistic and radical movements, both physically and socially. They graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts, double major in Contemporary Dance and Women's Studies from Concordia University in Montréal, Québec, where they lived, created, and performed for seven years before moving back to British Columbia, Canada. They presently work for the physical theatre company The Carpetbag Brigade (USA), internationally performing and teaching. Levana has taken part in projects worldwide, including clowning with The Gesundheit! Institute (USA) in Peru, dancing as part of Biblioteca do Corpo in Austria and Brazil, and various dance, theatre, and artistic residencies around the United States. For almost ten years now, Levana has been pursuing courses by teachers in the Axis Syllabus International Research Community, deepening a knowledge of biomechanical efficiency and strengthening the kinesthetic relationship with their body, with others, and with the environment. Levana is currently pursuing a teaching career in physical expression that is actively inclusive of people with all levels and types of physical ability.

CAMILO ANDRES JIMENEZ MORALES

Born in Colombia, Camilo has performed with Bogota ensemble Nemcatacoa Teatro since 2011 and is the director for their most recent works. Camilo joins Carpetbag Brigade this year having performed in 2013 with the Bi-Cultural Road Show and Dios de la Adrenalina. An enthusiastic parkour and acrobat, Camilo studies Theater Direction at ASAB Academia Superior de Artes in Bogota Colombia.

CONTACT

General Inquiries : info@carpetbagbrigade.com

Booking Inquiries : jayruby@carpetbagbrigade.com

Marketing Inquiries: hg@carpetbagbrigade.com

Phone: +1 415 902 8759

PO BOX 76051
Phoenix
ARIZONA
85087
USA

