IBEX PUPPETRY PRESENTS

Harmonious Migrations

A Playful Exploration of the Coexistence Between People & Cranes. Storytelling & Crafts highlighting Environmental Education and Traditional Ecological Knowledge

Created in collaboration with Heather Henson, Jason Gullo Mullins, and Tsering Choedron

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LEGEND

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WHAT IS Harmonious Migrations?

Join IBEX PUPPETRY in a playful exploration of the endangered Whooping Crane in North America.

Harmonious Migrations has been developed to teach children ages 5-12 about the interconnectivity of the elements in the environment as they relate to crane flyways. This workshop will illustrate how Native people of North America participate in the same planetary dance as the crane and all creations.

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THE CURRICULUM

INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE: Students are introduced to the wisdom of the Native American Medicine Wheel, an Indigenous design for living. They will gain knowledge of the Four Directions, four elements, four medicinal herbs, and four stages of life which sustain all living creatures, including Cranes and Humans.

EXPERIENCE: Children will create crane puppets, learn about migrational patterns, journey through the flyway, and learn crane dances, and joyfully connect this dance among cranes and humans.

EXPLORATION: Between shows, participants can explore the flyways on their own. They will be able to use their puppet to explore the topography of the land and converse about the importance of preserving the flyways.

LIFEWAYS CREATION STATIONS: The audience will have the opportunity to create the lifeways crafts experienced in the show. These are crafted objects that reflect the community’s connection to the environment - a decorated feather, a medicinal herb pouch, a corn husk doll and a shell Necklace (craft tables are unavailable for international presentations).

THE GOAL: Students will leave this workshop with a new understanding of interconnectivity through hands on experience. They will also leave with a newfound respect for indigenous cultures. The International Crane Show is science with a conscience and a whole lot of fun!

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THE LOCATION: Harmonious Migrations is extremely versatile. We have designed our programming so that it can work just about anywhere! Minimum space needs are 20’ x 20’.

THE SET UP: Our entire show fits into four suitcases plus a rolling sound system. Set up and strike each take 2 hours.

If we are intending to bring lifeways craft stations, please provide up to nine tables, a minimum of three feet long with a chair for each. (Exact number of tables will be specified in advance.)

RUNNING TIME/ AGE DEMOGRAPHIC: Our program is flexible; we can present a 30 minute performance or add interactive activities for up to 2 hours. For ages 8-12. The show’s running time can increase or decrease in length and intellectual depth based on the size of the group as well as the age range. Kindly, maintain the age difference among children participants to within three-four years of each other (i.e. 5-8 or 8-12).

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WHO ARE THE MAKERS?

Tsering Choedron, aka Ciren Quzhen, of Lhasa, Tibet, has studied at the American University School of International Service. She is the Education Coordinator for IBEX Puppetry and has co-authored the following Tibetan children's books: *A Little Frog and A Crow; Little Shepherd, Little Shepherd, What Are You Doing?; Lhomo Trung Trung and Dhondup.*

Jason Gullo Mullins is a member of the Bird Clan from the South Eastern Cherokee Nation. As a member of New York’s Native American Education Program and the American Indian Community House, Jason has been actively involved in his community’s preservation of Aboriginal culture from a young age. Jason is currently performing with The Kaha:wi Dance Theatre and a cultural ambassador with the Aboriginal Experience team, providing artistic performances and cultural programming.

HEATHER HENSON is an ardent advocate for the environment and the art of puppetry. Henson created IBEX Puppetry, a multi-platform production company to support her interests in health and healing for the planet by creating various art-driven projects. She blends the disciplines of visual art, environmental education, theater, and community engagement to create immersive, interactive presentations that engage all of the senses and awaken the soul. Past projects include: *Ajijaak on Turtle Island, Crane: On Earth, In Sky, Endangered Species Parade, Celebration of Flight, FLIGHT: A Crane’s Story,* and the UNIMA Citation of Excellence-winning stage show *Panther and Crane.* In addition to her theater & parade work, she has produced a puppet film series called Handmade Puppet Dreams with over nine volumes. She has also created the Puppet Slam Network, featuring about 50 puppet producing venues. Heather is a Trustee for the Eugene O’Neill Theater Center and sits on the Board of Directors for The International Crane Foundation and The Jim Henson Legacy.

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ABOUT IBEX PUPPETRY

IBEX Puppetry is devoted to health and healing for the planet through artistic spectacle, outreach, and devotion to the fine art of puppetry. Founded in 2000 by Creative Director Heather Henson, IBEX Puppetry operates activities in Central Florida, Los Angeles, CA and New York, NY. IBEX Puppetry produces Heather Henson’s original works, including Ajijaak on Turtle Island, Environmental Spectacles, Sing-Alongs, Education Initiatives, Ibex Presents, and Handmade Puppet Dreams. IBEX’s original performances and outreach have been recognized with UNIMA Citations of Excellence as well as awards from festivals and organizations around the world.

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