

Chicago Puppet Fest presents:

Andy Manjuck and Dorothy James: Bill's 44th

January 25-26, 2022

Chopin Theatre, 1543 W. Division St.

Creator's Note:

Hello and thank you for coming to Bill's 44th birthday party! Bill's been waiting a long time for this, and we are so thrilled you could make it!

We want to take a moment to acknowledge and celebrate all of our collaborators and colleagues through the years who helped transform *Bill's 44th* into what it has become. Our process is a devised one — the thoughts, gags, and reality-checks molded Bill into who he is today, and without everyone's input, Bill would probably still just be a head in a box on a shelf.

A very special thanks to the Chicago International Puppet Festival, St. Ann's Warehouse & our friends at Puppet Lab, The New York State Puppet Festival, The Late Night Puppet Talk Show crew, and Puppet Homecoming—and of course to Dixon Place, Cheryl Henson, and The Jim Henson Foundation, whose encouragement, guidance, and funds helped make this production, as well as countless others, possible.

Bill's 44th premiered at Dixon Place in NYC in June 2021 to a live, limited audience.

We are so excited to be back on a stage live and limit/ess.

Happy Birthday, Bill!

Co-creator & Puppeteer: Andy Manjuck is a Brooklyn-based puppeteer, director, and voiceover artist. Recent work: Puppetry: *Chimpanzee* (Nick Lehane); *The Plastic Bag Store*; *The Pigeoning* (Robin Frohardt); *Made in China*; *Baby Universe*; *Saga* (Wakka Wakka); *UAE 48th National Day* (Betty Productions) *Petrushka* (NY Philharmonic Orchestra, Giants Are Small), TV: *Nine Years To Neptune* (BYU TV); "That Life" (Unknown Mortal Orchestra). VO: *Adam Ruins Everything* (TruTV); *Unavowed* (Wadjet Eye Games); *Whispers of a Machine* (Clifftop Games); *MooseTube* (GoNoodle). Saturday nights, Andy is an intern on the Late Night Puppet Talk Show with Special Guest, a 100% live, 100% improvised puppet catastrophe on Saturday nights at 10pm on [twitch.tv/talkpuppet2me](https://www.twitch.tv/talkpuppet2me). For more on Andy, visit www.andymanjuck.com and find him on Instagram [@andymanjuck](https://www.instagram.com/andymanjuck).

Co-creator & Puppeteer: Dorothy James is a Brooklyn based puppeteer, educator, and maker of tiny things. She has puppeteered for Basil Twist, Wakka Wakka, Nick Lehane, Radio City, Unknown Mortal Orchestra, BBC, Amazon, and Apple TV+. As a creator, Dorothy uses table top, shadow, rod, and paper cut puppetry to create otherworldly narratives that meld the grotesque with a sense of innocence. She recently collaborated with banjoist Hilary Hawke, creating shadow imagery for her new concept album *Open the Doors*. Her paper cut stop-motion film *Lethologica* was an official selection of Chicago's Big Teeth Small Shorts Film Festival and the Upstate NY Horror Festival. Dorothy is co-creator/intern of the Late Night Puppet Talk Show With Special Guest. For more on Dorothy, visit www.dorothy-james.com and find her on Instagram [@instadeej](https://www.instagram.com/instadeej).

Creative Collaborator & Puppeteer: Jon Riddleberger is a New York City based actor and puppeteer. He has performed around the world with Handspring Puppet Company in *Il Ritorno D'Ulisse* and *War Horse*. Jon has helped develop shows and performed with Australia's Dead Puppet Society. He is a puppeteer and puppet captain for the BBC TV show *Moon and Me* and his work can be seen in the

upcoming *Clifford The Big Red Dog* feature film. He was recently commissioned to create a short film by Heather Henson's Handmade Puppet Dreams. Jon is an adjunct teacher at NYU. For more check out: www.jonriddleberger.com.

Composer: Eamon Fogarty is a composer, songwriter, singer, and multi-instrumentalist from New Hampshire, currently living in Austin TX. He's released several albums of songs under his own name, most recently 2019's "Blue Values." His work is informed by a winding path through jazz, choral music, free improvisation, and folk song. www.eamonfogarty.com.

Lighting Designer: M. Jordan Wiggins is a lighting designer, programmer, and production manager for all areas of live entertainment. Recent works include lighting design for Ballet Pensacola's Nutcracker, Fei Tian School of Dance at Middletown College, and Lincoln Center Education. Jordan has worked internationally designing for corporate events, dance, live music, cultural showcases, themed entertainment and acrobats. He is an alumni of the Savannah College of Art and Design and is the alumni chair for the Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas. Selected works at www.mjordanwiggins.com.

Production Coordinator: Taryn Uhe is a New York based stage manager, director and writer. Recently she has worked with Cherry Lane Theatre, Pip's Island, Company of Fools, Minor Theatre Company, Abrons Arts Center and more. Her work usually gravitates toward new and developing plays but has also included musicals, puppetry, immersive children's theatre, burlesque and fashion. tarynuhe.weebly.com.

Technical Director: Peter Russo has worked professionally in theater for 30 years as an actor, puppeteer, scenic carpenter, stagehand, electrician, technical director, and teacher. He is a founding member of Story Pirates, a group dedicated to celebrating the words and ideas of young people, and a company member of Wakka Wakka, with whom he has performed in at least 7 different productions. Back when he was still a "face actor" in the early aughts, he was in some pretty cool stuff that was nominated for awards and things. He was also in four different unions, including Local 79 Mason Tenders & Laborers, and briefly, the U. S. Merchant Marine. Education: B.S. in Speech and Communication, Northwestern University (Music Theater Certificate).

Dramaturg: Helena Pennington is a new play dramaturg and literary administrator. Her work gravitates towards the intersection of theater and other live performance styles, including puppet arts, music theater, and immersive or environmental work. She is currently a member of the artistic development staff at Manhattan Theatre Club. Helena's literary and dramaturgical work has also been seen at Playwrights Horizons, Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, Actors Theatre of Louisville, the O'Neill National Playwrights Conference and National Music Theater Conference, HERE Arts Center, and more. www.helenapennington.com.

Consulting Director: Nick O'Leary is a New York based director of theater and live events. Born and raised in New England, he has developed new work with The American Repertory Theater (MA), Guerilla Opera (MA), Actors Theatre of Louisville (KY), Dacha Theatre (WA), The Playable Theatre Project (MA), The Museum of the Moving Image (NY), Sinking Ship Creations (NY), and more. Nick is also a designer and creator of games, interactive experiences and other playable works. More at www.nickoleary.com.

Creative Producer: Leigh Walter is a director, producer and manager based in NYC. She has worked at Lincoln Center, Park Avenue Armory, The Public, Ars Nova, New York Theatre Workshop, St. Ann's Warehouse, HERE Arts Center, Dixon Place and La MaMa among a myriad of other theaters, warehouses, bars, museums, houses, streets and parks. Her work is focused on developing new theatre, with significant experience and passion for immersive/non- traditional productions and puppetry. This work has also included large-scale musicals, performance art, immersive children's theatre, dance, opera,

puppet folk-musicals and everything in-between. She is a proud company member of Trusty Sidekick.
B.F.A. Directing, Nebraska Wesleyan University. leighwalter.com.

Producers:

Blass Flores, Conner Peirce, Dave & Chris Loechel, Matt Manjuck, and Brian de Wolf