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PLUCKY PEOPLE'S PARADE RAINED OUT BUT NOT WASHED UP *Will celebrate spirit of community working together with LaborFest*

The All-City People's Parade and Pageant is a community-building art project anything Milwaukee has seen before. Although rained out on August 8th, the parade will resurrect to perform as part of LaborFest on Monday, September 7th.

Scores of professional artists and hundreds of volunteers from all parts of the city created huge puppets, floats and masked creatures from the ground up using cardboard and papier-mâché. The parade was scheduled for Saturday, August 8 in Washington Park and eager participants set up the elements at 5 am, despite storm warnings—hoping for a break in the clouds.

Unfortunately that break came too late. A heavy rainstorm damaged several of the major pieces, forcing cancellation. However, Laborfest has invited the People's Parade to join their Parade and festivities. So at 11 am on Labor Day, September 7, the All-City People's parade will march, dance and sing their way down Wisconsin Avenue, featuring giant hand-crafted masks, puppets, wacky costumes, offbeat marching bands, people-powered floats and regular citizens celebrating Milwaukee's hopes, fears, and ultimate sense of community. At 1 pm a narrated Pageant will explain the story behind the Parade's colorful and varied elements in front of the Miller Stage.

The theme of "Making a New Way—Together" emerged from a series of brainstorming sessions and focuses on the economy, ecology and neighborhood peace. The Parade and the Pageant which follow have sections entitled: "Prosperity is Just Around the Corner", "Toward an Economy of Lasting Value", "Toward Harmony in Our Neighborhoods", "Our Choices Grow the World", and "Yes, We Can Can-Can!"

Volunteers of all ages and abilities are still needed to actually be in the parade—to carry puppets, push floats and wear masks. Interested people and groups can call Milwaukee Public Theatre at 414-347-1685 for more information or email mptheatre2@milwaukeepublictheatre.org.

Photos of puppets and parade floats being created, and details on the parade's background can be found at www.milwaukeepublictheatre.org. A story by the Milwaukee Area Labor Council is available at www.milwaukeeelabor.org/in_the_news/article.cfm?n_id=0079.

Milwaukee Public Theatre and Milwaukee Mask and Puppet Theatre have spearheading this ambitious event, inspired by the In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre's May Day parade in Minneapolis. Primary funding comes from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Wisconsin Arts Board and the City of Milwaukee Arts Board. Dozens of agencies and hundreds of volunteers have contributed to the building of this parade

