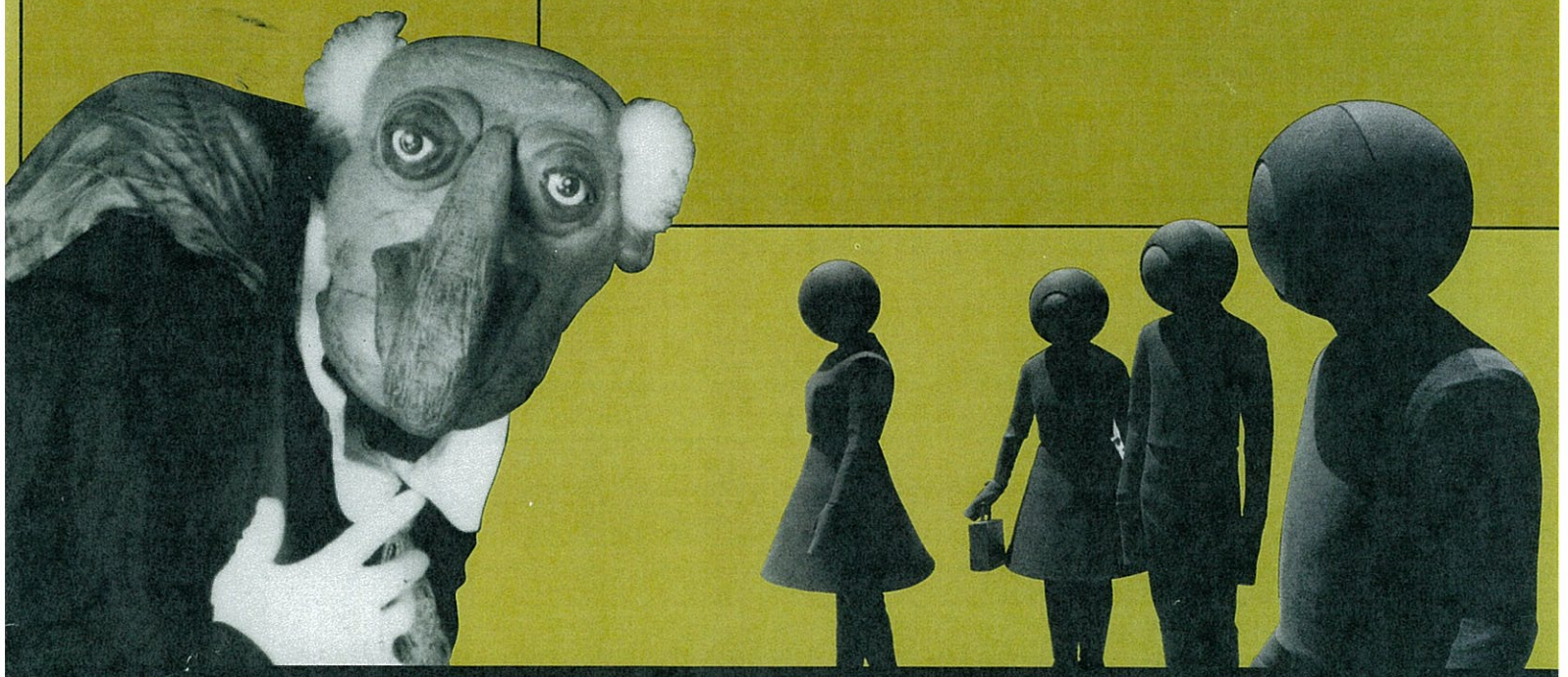
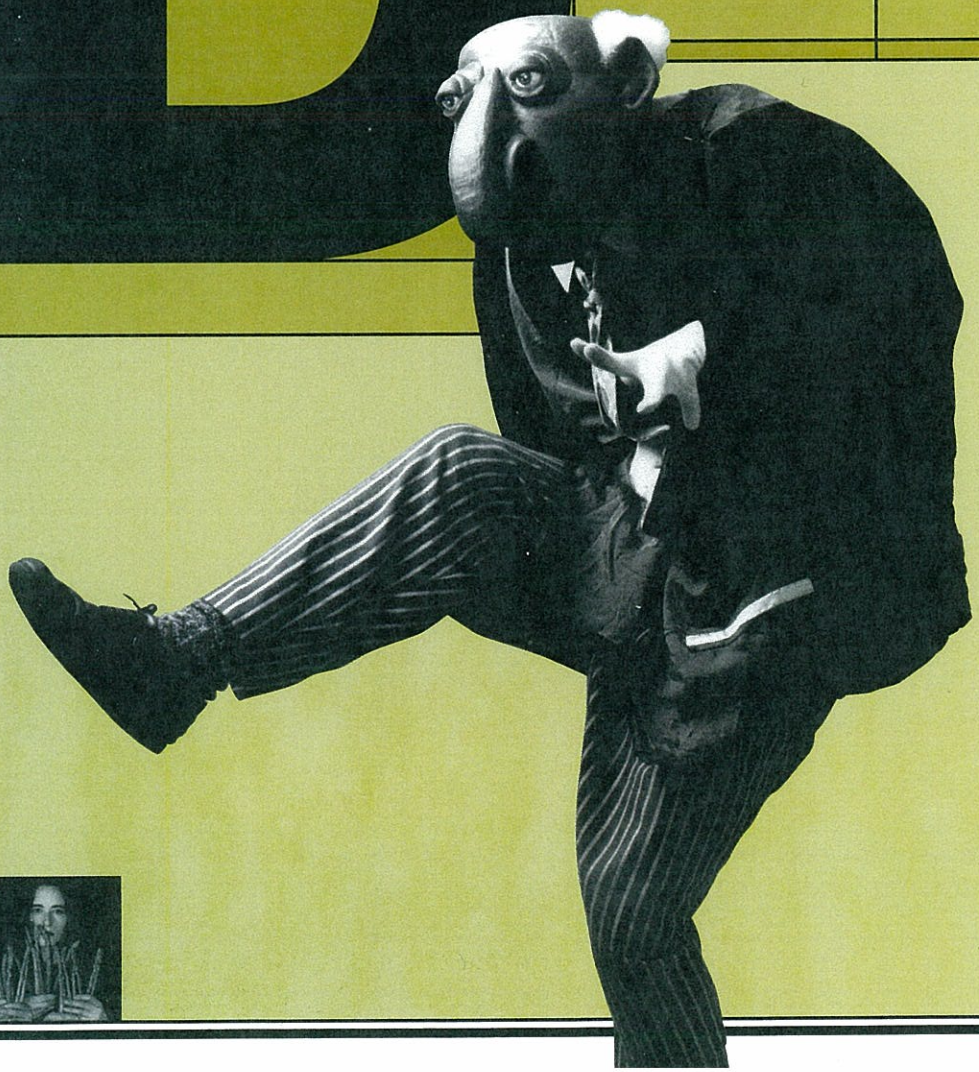
LMCC

LOWER MANHATTAN CULTURAL COUNCIL



annual report 1996

BUSK



The fourth edition of the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council's annual Buskers Fare elevated an ambitious community-based celebration of downtown New York's famed streetscape into a more fully realized festival of international reputation. We are pleased that we have been able to build on the quality and diversity of festival programming which has made the Buskers Fare one of the most unique seasonal attractions in New York City and increasingly, a major destination event for Lower Manhattan. With the support of the downtown business community, and the return of such major contributors as the Alliance for Downtown New York, Bloomberg News Radio, Chase Manhattan Bank, the Lower Manhattan Marketing Association, the Port Authority of NY & NJ, and Smith Barney, Buskers Fare 1996 enjoyed a wealth of new initiatives, both in artistic maturation and in growing outreach on behalf of a renascent downtown.

ERS





During eight days leading up to the Fourth of July, the festival's fourth edition proved a red-white-and-blue banner occasion. Programmed to complement other downtown events and promotions, Buskers Fare 1996 kicked off an exciting summer of high visibility for Lower Manhattan. Following a grand tradition begun in the festival's premier 1993 season, the Buskers Fare opened at City Hall. On Tuesday, June 25th, 1996, at high noon, hundreds of street entertainers from around the world gathered on its steps, creating a colorful group portrait unequalled in its spontaneous pageantry.

The opening ceremony is highly anticipated by the Office of the Mayor, an event where mayhem of the family kind reigns to the delight of all. The mood was set by John Davidson and the Broadway cast of Rodgers & Hammerstein's "State Fair." Then, with Philadelphia's prize winning Avalon String Band in the lead (in sequins and trademark plumage), stiltwalkers, jugglers, puppeteers, magicians, musicians, and street performance artists of all kinds marched off to the Austin J. Tobin Plaza of the World Trade Center to demonstrate their unique craft. Unsuspecting audiences numbered in the thousands, many of whom joined in the parade down Broadway. Buskers Fare 1996 was off to a blue ribbon Fourth.

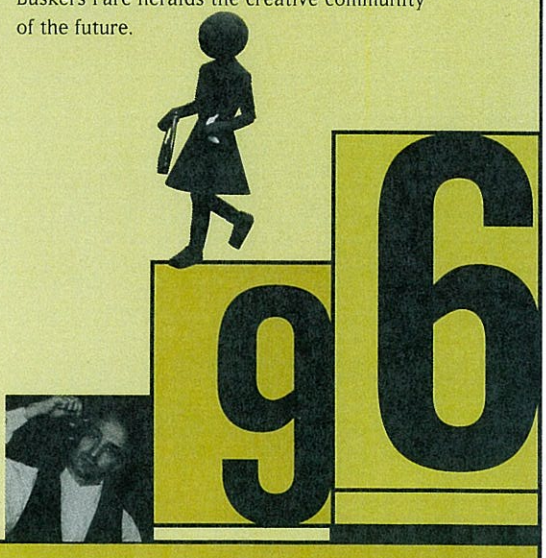
Over 170 performances, featuring more than 250 performers, captured a widely diverse crowd of 162,000 appreciative spectators, not including the often amused passerby. A special opening night revue by Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Clown College was presented at Pace Downtown Theater, where the kings of clowndom also introduced a festival discovery, the New Way Circus. The Brooklyn-based one-year old troupe features acrobatic youngsters under the exacting guidance of Moscow Circus veteran Alex Berenchtein. The evening closed with a gathering outdoors at Edward Moran Bar & Grill, with backstage anecdotes shared in a dozen foreign languages.

In the days to follow, San Francisco's zany Los Payasos Mendigos ("the beggar clowns"), a cappella troupes Whatever 4 and 14 Karat Soul, and the X-Cheerleaders (feminist wit by former pompon girls) topped a variety list of 57 traditional to avant garde acts. Tam Tam, miniature object theater from The Netherlands, created a work for sandbox especially for the Buskers Fare. "Sidewalk Sonatas" by Cornfield Dance were played amidst a field of huge soft-sculpture blossoms, and a stunning interpretation of the Italian harvest by Sara Pearson Patrik Widrig and Company enthralled parkgoers in Battery Park City's sweeping Hudson River Park. Big Nazo, the world's only rock 'n' roll puppet band (a downtown favorite) landed on the helipad at the Observation Deck atop the World Trade Center, and Germany's Die Audio Gruppe, a foursome of electronic dancers, plugged in at the New York Information Technology Center. The popular Buskers Ball, presented by the Port Authority of NY & NJ on the plaza of the World Trade Center, united the entire festival cast for a 4-hour extravaganza of circus and vaudeville that was attended by a record crowd of more than 10,000.

New festival initiatives include broader educational involvement, more exchanges within the international festival circuit, the active participation of downtown's real estate industry, and the addition of visual arts to the Buskers Fare mix. A semester long, pilot course in "Festivals and Design" developed with the High School of Fashion Industries introduced the history and costume of festivals worldwide to 15 students, who through vocational underwriting received credit and a small stipend. Their final project was the creation of their own festival garb, paraded on the opening day of the Buskers Fare. Our artists' exchange took downtown's Pink Inc. in May 1996 to Streets Ahead in Manchester, England. In turn, we hosted Avanti Display (the Ball's human fountain) and the Whalley Range All Stars (with their heads in hand), graciously housed at Manhattan Seaport Suites. Thursday, June 27th marked "The World's Largest Open House," a day which underscored the potential creative use of the vacant office space still available in Lower Manhattan. To that end, Rudin Management Company, Inc. engaged three artists to provide the festival with its first series of lobby installations, humorous works by Gene Pool, Theodora Skipitares, and Basil Twist.

The Buskers Fare continues to welcome the support of foreign government and arts agencies: the Canadian Consulate General of New York, the Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany in New York, and the Theater Instituut Nederland.

The New York Post proclaimed the Buskers Fare "a unique marriage of art and commerce." With the exciting synergies of artist, business, and community that are rocketing Lower Manhattan toward the next millennium, the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council's Buskers Fare continues to serve as a mainstream signature event for downtown New York. Like the Financial District itself, the Buskers Fare reflects classic enterprise, fresh development, a multicultural aesthetic, and marketplace savvy. As downtown New York strategically repositions itself with renewed impact on the world, the Buskers Fare heralds the creative community of the future.



BUSKERS

sponsors and contributors

Alliance for Downtown New York • Association for a Better New York • Audart Gallery • Battery Park City Authority • Bloomberg News Radio • Canadian Consulate General of New York • Jacquelin Carnegie • Century 21 Department Stores • Chase • City of New York Department of Cultural Affairs • City of New York Department of Parks & Recreation • City of New York Street Activity Permits Office • Club Cheers • Community Board 1 • Conservancy for Historic Battery Park • Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany in New York • Cushman & Wakefield, Inc. • Dancing in the Streets • Deep Space Gallery • Downtown Express • Fira de Teatre al Carrer Tarrega • Fraunces Tavern • Galbreath Company • Goldman, Sachs & Co. • Gray Line New York • High School of Fashion Industries • H. J. Kalikow & Co., Inc. • HRO International Ltd. • Hudson River Club/Edward Moran Bar & Grill • Joyce Gold History Tours • The Kitchen • Koeppel & Koeppel • Lower Manhattan Marketing Association • Manchester International Arts/Streets Ahead • Manhattan High School District Office Manhattan Seaport Suites • Marriott World Trade Center • C. Mazzella's Market • The Millenium Hilton • Mutual Life Insurance Company • The National Museum of the American Indian/Smithsonian Institution • New Water Street Corporation • New York Association for New Americans • New York City Police Department, First Precinct • New York Health & Racquet Club • New York Information Technology Center • New York Marriott World Financial Center Hotel • New York State Council on the Arts • New York Waterway • NYNEX Corporation • Observation Deck Atop The World Trade Center • Office of the Mayor/City of New York • Pace Downtown Theater/Pace University • Pedicabs of New York • Poland Spring Water • The Port Authority of NY & NJ/The World Trade Center • Rainbow Lounge • The RREEF Fund • Rudin Management Company, Inc. • Michael Sataro • Seaport Marketplace, Inc. • Smith Barney Inc. • Snug Harbor Cultural Center • South Street Seaport Museum • TDI • Theater Instituut Nederland • Time Saver Limousine, Inc. • Tribeca Performing Arts Center • Trinity Church • Viesti Associates • Windows on the World







performance sites

One Battery Park Plaza • 110 Wall Street • Battery Park • Battery Park City Esplanade • Century 21 Department Store • Chase Plaza • City Hall • 80 Pine Street • Edward Moran Bar & Grill • Federal Hall • Fraunces Tavern Historic District • Hudson River Park • Manhattan Seaport Suites • New York Information Technology Center • ObservationDeck Atop The World Trade Center • Pace Downtown Theater • Trinity Church • World Trade Center

production and marketing

Audio Inc. • Jeff Becker • Clear Sound Productions, Inc. • The Bruce Cohen Group, Ltd. • Christopher Eaves • Sarah Felice • The Howes Group, Inc. • Kelrom Agency Inc. • Little Big Pictures Inc. • Liz Margulies

buskers and performing troupes

The Artfull Juggler • Die Audio Gruppe • Avalon String Band • Avanti Display • Axe Bahia Brazi • Ballet Folklorico Sentir Criollo • Sheperd Baum • Akbar Beard • Big Nazo • Bond Street Theatre • Michael Bongar • Bill Brookman • The 3 Canadians • Micheal Carroll • Cast in Bronze • Cornfield Dance • Crescent City Six • John Davidson and the Broadway cast of Rodgers & Hammerstein's "State Fair" • Disc Dance • Preston Foerder • 14 Karat Soul • Geist • Goddard Riverside Acro Club • Sean Grissom • Shawn Henderson • High School of Fashion Industries • International Performance & Production • Just Us • Master Lee • Magical Musical Marion • Leo's Marionette Show • Joy McLaughlin and Juan Leger • Jeff Moche • New York Tango • The New Way Circus • Los Payasos Mendigos • Sara Pearson Patrik Widrig and Company • The Pedestrian Project • Pink Inc. • Gene Pool • Lawrence Racioppo • Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Clown College • Risky Business Bluegrass Band • Will Shaw • Theodora Skipitares • Whit Smith and His Western Caravan • Patti Smithsonian • Songfellows • Spirit Ensemble • Sunshine Steel • Sally Sutton • Tam Tam • Jose Torres Tama • Alex Tamarlakov • Theatre Kameleon/Dorris Boelaart • The Turtleman • Basil Twist • Josh Weiner • Whalley Range All Stars • Whatever 4 • X-Cheerleaders • Young Raoul



Manhattan Seaport Suites is the official hotel of LMCC.