

“The On-Time Circus” Company Biographies

Margo McCreary, lead artist

Margo McCreary has a developed sense of play, and stays open to possibilities. She interacts with the world creatively. She is an observer of life’s nuances, and is practiced and highly skilled at bringing objects to life with movement, imagination, and voice. Puppet animation is her forte, and she wishes to draw people who are uninitiated into the magical world of puppetry with her ability to bring puppets to life!



Puppetry is an earthy and permissive art form: anything goes and it can be made out of anything. Margo takes advantage of the bountiful material world where things a person might throw away can be transformed! Take her plastic milk bottle tight rope walking chicken for example! She has created a puppet trailer out of re-used materials: an old granary; a truck topper; corrugated siding from a farm out building; a deco space heater, for example.

Margo has been a self-employed artist for over 30 years. Her puppet career was launched in 1976 when she worked with In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre (HOBT) in Minneapolis. She has continued to work independently over these four decades, developing a “character-driven” approach to puppetry. Her many original puppet stories emerge from her characters. Ollie McNutt is a 7 foot tall puppet she has animated since 1980. He is an earnest character who deals with a certain amount of angst. In “Tango to Caanan”, Ollie gets out of his apartment at the urging of Hoya, his house plant, to learn to Tango, and falls in love. Jack the Dog, a foot-tall table top puppet, has been sniffing out adventures with zest since 1999. In “Diggity Dog Days”, Jack is buffeted by changes in his owner’s life but remains forever upbeat! Margo works humorously with themes about being human in a culture that calls us to ignore our bodies and hearts so often.



In the past 10 years McCreary has received two commissions from the Jerome Foundation to create original works for experimental puppetry at HOBT. In 2011 she received an Artist Initiative Grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, in 2012, an Arts Tour Grant for a show starring Jack the Dog, “Diggity Dog Days”, and in 2014 and another Arts Tour Grant for the traveling puppet show, “The On-Time Circus.”

Paulino Brener, performer



Paulino created, performed (both solo and groups) and directed theater in Santa Fe, Argentina for 8 years. He has been doing theater and dance in the Twin Cities since 2001, with companies such as Teatro del Pueblo, Trece Lunas Arts Collective, In the Heart of the Beast Puppet & Mask Theatre, Sandbox Theater, Pangea World Theater, Ethnic Dance Theater and others. He has also created several one-man shows, including one as part of the Naked Stages program at Pillsbury House in 2011. He is guest curator of the annual cabaret Noche Hispana at Patrick's Cabaret, celebrating its 10th anniversary in 2014. In "The On-Time Circus" he applies his creative and agile approach to physical theater as the main character, Ms. Tock.



He is also a Social Media manager. He uses art and technology to connect and share with people around him. The vast majority of his work explores topics of multiculturalism, bilingualism and identity.

Bruce Wintervold, percussionist



Bruce Wintervold has been a percussionist for theatre and dance in the Twin Cities area for over 40 years, playing for dozens of shows at the Children's Theatre, Guthrie, Minnesota History Theatre and Chanhassen Dinner Theatre. He composed music for the CTC's production of *Two African Tales* as well as for the Nancy Hauser Dance company. He currently plays vibraphone in one of the Twin Cities liveliest swing bands, Radio Joe and the Jazzbos, and also with guitarist, Tom Leiberman.

Marya Hart, composer and pianist

Marya Hart is a composer and pianist based in Minneapolis. Her musical theatre works have been produced at Frank Theatre, Bedlam Theatre, History Theatre, Nautilus Music Theater, the Minnesota Fringe Festival, Southwest State University, Stepping Stone Theatre and Rubber Chicken Theatre. With Matt Jenson she has created and produced five editions of "Fidgety Fairy



Tales: The Mental Health Musical," now in its fifth year of touring Minnesota. She has worked as the music director on the 5-year-running summer sensation, the Picnic Operetta produced by Mixed Percipitation, and numerous other professional and community productions in the Twin Cities area. Marya is a staff accompanist at the University of Minnesota Dance Department and St. Peter Claver Catholic Church. She is the recipient of a Jerome Foundation Travel/Study Grant and two Minnesota Music Awards.

Susan Munson, pianist



For nearly 30 years, Susan Munson has remained a busy and enthusiastic independent piano teacher, collaborative pianist, music director, organist, clinician for teacher workshops, and popular adjudicator for contests and exams in Minnesota and Wisconsin. Having earned both a Bachelor of Arts degree and a Master's of Music degree in Piano Pedagogy and Performance, Susan continues to deepen her own artistry through the guidance of several master pianists around the Twin Cities area, as well as explores how to best serve the wonderful profession of

music instruction by attending workshops, conferences, and actively associating with her peers. She has been invited to speak on a variety of pedagogical topics and has served in many leadership roles for both the State and Local Music Teacher's associations. Twice, she has been published in the Music Teacher's National Association Journal and in 2001, she received a U. S. Presidential Scholars Program Teacher Recognition Award from the U. S. Department of Education. Susan is an avid supporter of theater and the arts in the Twin Cities area and in her free time, she loves to read, cook, swim, practice yoga and cross-country ski.