

# Shank's Mare



A work-in-progress showing by Tom Lee  
September 11, 2015

## Puppetry at the Carriage House

Thank you for coming, we're excited to have featured two artists this season. P.A.T.C.H. Artist-in-Residence work-in-progress presentations will resume in the Spring. Stay tuned.

# Shank's Mare

CAST: Josh Rice, CB Goodman, Leah Ogawa, Lake Simons, Justin Perkins

Lighting Design: Jeanette Oi-Suk Yew

Music composed and performed by Bill Ruyle

Assistant Prop and Set Designer: Hye Young Chyun

Shank's Mare is the story of two wandering travelers whose paths intersect in time and space. Using traditional kuruma ningyo puppetry, live feed video projection, miniature sets and a live score by Bill Ruyle (hammer dulcimer) and Chieko Hara (shamisen and flute), the piece explores life and death and how tradition is passed on.

The production is collaboration with Koryu Nishikawa V and Hachioji Kuruma Ningyo, a 160 year old Japanese puppet theatre devoted to the kuruma ningyo style, in which a single puppeteer operates a single puppet while seated upon a small rolling box.

## DIRECTORS NOTE:

I first met Koryu-san almost nine years ago at his theater in Hachioji. The scent of the wood in those halls, the portraits of his forefathers and the puppets and costumes from countless performances will always be a part of my memories of Japan. Koryu-sensei introduced me to the staggering breadth of Japanese traditional puppet theater, from the revered National Bunraku Theater to companies all throughout Japan engaged in a huge diversity of techniques. He is a unique traditional master, combining the responsibility of 160 years of Hachioji Kuruma Ningyo with an openness to share his artistry with a new generation of artists and young people. I hope our work together celebrates and honors the power of the traditional form and finds new ways of expression for the ancient art of puppetry.

The title *Shank's Mare* is an archaic reference to one's feet, inspired by the Japanese traditional classic Tokaidochu Hizakurige. Our journey by shank's mare is a story of life paths that wander and intersect, with the recognition that everything comes from somewhere. I'd like to thank Koryu-san, the company and my collaborators for their willingness to take this journey together.

This presentation has been made possible through funding and support by The Jane Henson Foundation, Heather Henson, The Jim Henson Foundation, Asian Cultural Council, Theatre Communications Group, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Yara Arts Group, The Flea Theatre, The Japan Foundation NY with residency support provided by Hachioji Kurma Ningyo and Sarah Lawrence College.



**Shank's Mare - World Premiere**

**November 6-15, 2015**

**Part of the 2015 La MaMa Puppet Series**

**La MaMa e.t.c. 66 East 4th St. NYC**