

The University of Maine

DigitalCommons@UMaine

Social Justice: Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

Special Collections

9-13-1991

Bread and Puppet Theatre Presents a Story of Disorder in "The New World Order"

Maine Perspective

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/social_justice



Part of the [Gender Equity in Education Commons](#), [Higher Education Commons](#), [Race and Ethnicity Commons](#), and the [United States History Commons](#)

Repository Citation

Maine Perspective, "Bread and Puppet Theatre Presents a Story of Disorder in "The New World Order"" (1991). *Social Justice: Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion*. 725.

https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/social_justice/725

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@UMaine. It has been accepted for inclusion in Social Justice: Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@UMaine. For more information, please contact um.library.technical.services@maine.edu.

Bread and Puppet Theatre Presents a Story of Disorder in "The New World Order"

*Growing up:
I learned that Columbus discovered America.
I was told that the "first settlers" arrived on the Mayflower.
I was taught that Thanksgiving represented the cooperation between the "first settlers" and the Indians.*

*Growing up:
No one told me that 25,000 years ago, the first human really arrived in North America via the Bering Straits.
I wasn't taught that by 1492, 20 million people had already settled in South, Central, and North America.
My history books didn't say that Native Americans were not grateful for the onslaught of Christianity, disease, slavery, genocide and the decimation of the environment.*

In a two-day performance that mixes parade and pageantry, workshops and audience-as-performers, the Bread and Puppet Theatre of Glover, Vt., will give a performance of its newest work: "Columbus: The New World Order, Part I and Part II," Sept. 27 and Sept. 29 at the University of Maine.

USM Technology Fee

continued from page 5

directions for computing at USM. According to Nickerson, the changes in student computing this year are expected to include increasing the Macintosh hardware on what are primarily MS-DOS campuses, and a planned replacement-upgrade program. Most of the hardware acquisitions up until now have been additions, not replacements because there are not enough keyboards available to meet student demand. With space limitations on the Portland Campus and waiting lines for equipment in the general access areas, the emphasis will be on planned replacement and setting minimum standards for such replacement equipment. Gorham, which still has some room for expansion, will continue to receive additional computers. ▲



"Columbus: The New World Order" is a two-part work that challenges the schoolbook version of Columbus' arrival, as well as "the new world order" that was ushered in with Eurocentric ideology. It is the story of how the explorer (Christopher, meaning "Christ-bearer," and Columbus, "the bringer of peace") and his prisoner crew initiated "the new world order."

According to Peter Schumann, founder and director of Bread and Puppet Theatre, Columbus arrives in "paradise" and begins to "implement the rules of ... love as they understand it. Five hundred years later, they are still on the same mission. The doctrine has hardly changed, the purposes are the same."

The production of "Columbus," presented by UM's Peace Studies Program and sponsored in part by the Arthur Lord Fund and Class of 1934 Fund, hopes to provide a lead-in to 1992 - 500 years after Columbus "discovered" the New World. According to organizers, the 500th anniversary is not a celebration, but instead "an opportunity for: re-education, taking responsibility for our biases and prejudices, learning from the indigenous peoples in our bioregion, naming what we can learn from the last 500 years, and planning for a future that includes 'all our relations.'"

The program is one of several created

through the years by Schumann who, in the early '60s, founded a theater that challenged contemporary expectation of theater as simply entertainment. From its inception, Bread and Puppet Theatre probed both artistic and spiritual stereotypes of Western culture.

Challenging well-known social, political and environmental issues, Bread and Puppet began to create celebratory festivals in the spirit of the ancient folk traditions, seasonal feasts and medieval morality plays. "Columbus" challenges the historic myths of Columbus' heroic deeds by juxtaposing the traditional story with a critical analysis of the historic facts. Organizers say it is about "telling the truth."

Comprised of two parts, "Part I, The Inside Story" will be

performed in Hutchins Concert Hall beginning at 8 p.m. Sept. 27 by the Bread and Puppet Touring Company. (This performance, due to its slow-moving, politically sophisticated script, is not recommended for children under 14.) Drawing on material from Operation Desert Storm, the biography of Columbus is performed by over-lifesize puppets and masks. "Part II, The Outside Story" is a large-scale pageant (appropriate for all ages) that will be performed on the Alumni (football) Field (Memorial Gym in case of rain) by members of the touring company and up to 150 local participants (all ages, no experience necessary) beginning at 2 p.m., Sept. 29. In the form of a parade and pageant, it tells the story of the James Bay hydroelectric project in Northern Quebec. The pageant features herds of caribou, Native American populations, a giant Mother Earth and information about the James Bay Project.

Sunday's performance is the culmination of a two-day workshop with local volunteers who become active puppeteers, musicians and masked dancers in Sunday's pageant. If you are interested and would like more information, contact the Peace Studies Program, x2609. Tickets are available by calling x1731. ▲