# Los Angeles Department of City Planning RECOMMENDATION REPORT

CULTURAL HERITAGE COMMISSION CASE NO.: CHC-2009-199-HCM

ENV-2009-212-CE

**HEARING DATE:** April 2, 2009 Location: 1345 West First Street

TIME: 10:00 AM Council District: 1

PLACE: City Hall, Room 1010 Community Plan Area: Westlake

200 N. Spring Street Area Planning Commission: Central

Los Angeles, CA Neighborhood Council: Greater Echo Park Elysian 90012 Legal Description: Lot 4 and 5 of Tract Joseph

Bayer's First and Lakeshore Boulevard

**PROJECT:** Historic-Cultural Monument Application for the

BOB BAKER MARIONETTE THEATER

**REQUEST:** Declare the property a Historic-Cultural Monument

APPLICANT: Lauren Everett

Historic Theater Committee 1047 Hyperion Ave., #7 Los Angeles, CA 90029

OWNER: Bob Baker

1345 West 1<sup>st</sup> Street Los Angeles, CA 90026

#### **RECOMMENDATION** That the Cultural Heritage Commission:

- 1. **Declare** the property a Historic-Cultural Monument per Los Angeles Administrative Code Chapter 9, Division 22, Article 1, Section 22.171.7
- Adopt the report findings.

S. GAIL GOLDBERG, AICP Director of Planning

[SIGNED ORIGINAL IN FILE] [SIGNED ORIGINAL IN FILE]

Ken Bernstein, AICP, Manager Lambert M. Giessinger, Preservation Architect

Office of Historic Resources

Office of Historic Resources

Prepared by:

[SIGNED ORIGINAL IN FILE]

Edgar Garcia, Preservation Planner
Office of Historic Resources

Attachments: December, 2008 Historic-Cultural Monument Application

ZIMAS Report

#### **FINDINGS**

The property reflects "the broad cultural, economic, or social history of the nation, State or community" for its association with puppeteer Bob Baker and the Bob Baker Marionette Theater and the history of puppeteering in Los Angeles.

#### CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT ("CEQA") FINDINGS

The Commission hereby recommends that Council find the proposed designation of the Bob Baker Marionette Theater building as a Historic-Cultural Monument to be exempt from further analysis under the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, Sections 15308 (Class 8) and 15331 (Class 31).

#### **CRITERIA**

The criterion is the Cultural Heritage Ordinance which defines a historical or cultural monument as any site (including significant trees or other plant life located thereon) building or structure of particular historic or cultural significance to the City of Los Angeles, such as historic structures or sites in which the broad cultural, economic, or social history of the nation, State or community is reflected or exemplified, or which are identified with historic personages or with important events in the main currents of national, State or local history or which embody the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type specimen, inherently valuable for a study of a period style or method of construction, or a notable work of a master builder, designer or architect whose individual genius influenced his age.

#### **SUMMARY**

Built in 1953, this one-story commercial building exhibits character-defining features of Modern Vernacular style architecture. The subject building appears to be L-shape in plan creating an entryway courtyard space facing 1<sup>st</sup> Street. It has a flat asphalt roof with a white painted cinder block finish and vertical sliding vinyl windows. The main elevation features an off-center loading door with corrugated metal, two entryways with doors, and a rectangular marquee. Significant interior spaces include a red-curtained performance room with three crystal chandeliers.

The subject building was built by an unknown architect or builder. It appears to have been built as a scene shop that served as the workshop for Academy Award-winning special effects artist M.B. Paul. In 1961, Bob Baker and Alton Wood purchased the property for use as a live puppet theater and permanent showcase for hand-crafted marionettes.

Bob Baker is a Los Angeles-based puppeteer who began to work with puppets at the age of seven. While still a student at Hollywood High School, Baker was working with several puppet companies and selling his hand-crafted marionettes to department stores. He began an apprenticeship at the Academy Award-winning George Pal Animation, recognized for its innovative use of stop motion animation techniques. Within a year, Baker became head of the Paramount Studios-contracted Puppetoons division and went on to form his own company with puppeteer Alton Wood, Bob Baker Productions. His credits include work on films and television shows such as *Bedknobs and Broomsticks*, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, *A Star is Born*, *Escape to Witch Mountain*, and *Star Trek*. Baker has also served as a design consultant to Disney Studios.

1345 West 1<sup>st</sup> Street CHC-2009-199-HCM Page 3 of 4

The Bob Baker Marionette Theater appears to be the longest-running puppet theater in the nation and the only one of its kind in the City of Los Angeles. It boasts a collection of over 3,000 handmade marionettes and holds shows during the week. The subject building also houses the non-profit Academy of Puppetry and Allied Arts, where high school students from underserved communities of the City learn the art of puppeteering.

#### DISCUSSION

The Bob Baker Marionette Theater property successfully meets one of the specified Historic-Cultural Monument criteria in reflecting "the broad cultural, economic, or social history of the nation, State or community." As a property associated with puppeteer Bob Baker and the Bob Baker Marionette Theater and reflecting the history of puppeteering in Los Angeles, the property qualifies for designation as a Historic-Cultural Monument based on these criteria.

#### **BACKGROUND**

At its meeting of February 5, 2009, the Cultural Heritage Commission voted to take the application under consideration. On March 5, 2009, the Cultural Heritage Commission toured the subject property.

#### CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT ("CEQA") REVIEW

State of California CEQA Guidelines, Article 19, Section 15308, Class 8 "consists of actions taken by regulatory agencies, as authorized by state or local ordinance, to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of the environment where the regulatory process involves procedures for protection of the environment."

State of California CEQA Guidelines Article 19, Section 15331, Class 31 "consists of projects limited to maintenance, repair, stabilization, rehabilitation, restoration, preservation, conservation or reconstruction of historical resources in a manner consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring, and Reconstructing Historic buildings."

The designation of the Bob Baker Marionette Theater property as a Historic-Cultural Monument in accordance with Chapter 9, Article 1, of The City of Los Angeles Administrative Code ("LAAC") will ensure that future construction activities involving the subject property are regulated in accordance with Section 22.171.14 of the LAAC. The purpose of the designation is to prevent significant impacts to a Historic-Cultural Monument through the application of the standards set forth in the LAAC. Without the regulation imposed by way of the pending designation, the historic significance and integrity of the subject property could be lost through incompatible alterations and new construction and the demolition of irreplaceable historic structures. The Secretary of the Interior's Standards of Rehabilitation are expressly incorporated into the LAAC and provide standards concerning the historically appropriate construction activities which will ensure the continued preservation of the subject property.

The use of Categorical Exemption Class 8 in connection with the proposed designation is consistent with the goals of maintaining, restoring, enhancing, and protecting the environment through the imposition of regulations designed to prevent the degradation of Historic-Cultural Monuments.

1345 West 1<sup>st</sup> Street CHC-2009-199-HCM Page 4 of 4

The use of Categorical Exemption Class 31 in connection with the proposed designation is consistent with the goals relating to the preservation, rehabilitation, restoration and reconstruction of Historic buildings in a manner consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Preserving Rehabilitating, Restoring, and Reconstructing Historic Buildings.

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APPLICANT: Lauren Everett

> **Historic Theater Committee** 1047 Hyperion Ave., #7 Los Angeles, CA 90029

OWNER: Bob Baker

1345 West 1st Street Los Angeles, CA 90026

#### RECOMMENDATION That the Cultural Heritage Commission:

- 1. Take the property under consideration as a Historic-Cultural Monument per Los Angeles Administrative Code Chapter 9, Division 22, Article 1, Section 22.171.10 because the application and accompanying photo documentation suggest the submittal may warrant further investigation.
- 2. Adopt the report findings.

S. GAIL GOLDBERG, AICP

Director of Planning

[SIGNED ORIGINAL IN FILE] [SIGNED ORIGINAL IN FILE]

Ken Bernstein, AICP, Manager Lambert M. Giessinger, Preservation Architect

Office of Historic Resources Office of Historic Resources

Prepared by:

Attachments:

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Edgar Garcia, Preservation Planner Office of Historic Resources

December, 2008 Historic-Cultural Monument Application

ZIMAS Report

#### SUMMARY

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The subject building was built by an unknown architect or builder. It appears to have been built as a scene shop that served as the workshop for Academy Award-winning special effects artist M.B. Paul. In 1961, Bob Baker and Alton Wood purchased the property for use as a live puppet theater and permanent showcase for hand-crafted marionettes.

Bob Baker is a Los Angeles-based puppeteer who began to work with puppets at the age of seven. While still a student at Hollywood High School, Baker was working with several puppet companies and selling his hand-crafted marionettes to department stores. He began an apprenticeship at the Academy Award-winning George Pal Animation, recognized for its innovative use of stop motion animation techniques. Within a year, Baker became head of the Paramount Studios-contracted Puppetoons division and went on to form his own company with puppeteer Alton Wood, Bob Baker Productions. His credits include work on films and television shows such as *Bedknobs and Broomsticks*, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, *A Star is Born*, *Escape to Witch Mountain*, and *Star Trek*. Baker has also served as a design consultant to Disney Studios.

The Bob Baker Marionette Theater appears to be the longest-running puppet theater in the nation and the only one of its kind in the City of Los Angeles. It boasts a collection of over 3,000 handmade marionettes and holds shows during the week. The subject building also houses the non-profit Academy of Puppetry and Allied Arts, where high school students from underserved communities of the City learn the art of puppeteering.

The subject building may be significant for its association with puppeteer Bob Baker and the Bob Baker Marionette Theater.

#### CRITERIA

The criterion is the Cultural Heritage Ordinance which defines a historical or cultural monument as any site (including significant trees or other plant life located thereon) building or structure of particular historic or cultural significance to the City of Los Angeles, such as historic structures or sites in which the broad cultural, economic, or social history of the nation, State or community is reflected or exemplified, or which are identified with historic personages or with important events in the main currents of national, State or local history or which embody the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type specimen, inherently valuable for a study of a period style or method of construction, or a notable work of a master builder, designer or architect whose individual genius influenced his age.

#### **FINDINGS**

Based on the facts set forth in the summary and application, the Commission determines that the application is complete and that the property is significant enough to warrant further investigation as a potential Historic-Cultural Monument.

1345 West 1<sup>st</sup> Street CHC-2009-199-HCM Page 2 of 2

#### SUMMARY

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#### **FINDINGS**

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# HISTORIC-CULTURAL MONUMENT APPLICATION

TYPE OR HAND PRINT IN ALL CAPITAL BLOCK LETTERS

ID	ENTIFICATION							
1.	NAME OF PROPOS	SED MONUMENT	Bob Baker Marionette Theater					
2.			1345 W. 1st. Street					
	CITY	Los Angeles	ZIP	CODE	90026	_ COUNCIL DISTRICT	1	
3.	ASSESSOR'S PARCE	EL NO.		5160	0013002			
	COMPLETE LEGAL DESCRIPTION: TRACT JOSEPH BAYER'S FIRST AND LAKESHORE BOULEVARD TRACT							
	BLOCK	None	LO	F(S)	FR 4 & 5	ARB, NO,	None	
5.	RANGE OF ADDRE	esses on property			Nor	ie		
6. PRESENT OWNER Bob Baker					aker			
	STREET ADDRESS	W. 1st Street	st Street E-MAIL ADDRESS: bob@bobbakermarionettes.com					
	CITY	Los Angeles	STATE _	CA ZIP C	ODE 90	0026 PHONE (213	250-4093	
	OWNERSHIP: PRI	VATE	Х	PUBLIC_			***************************************	
7.	PRESENT USE	Live puppet theater	(1963-present)	ORIGINAL	USE	Scenic shop (195	53-1961)	
D	ESCRIPTION							
	•	STYLE		Vei	rnacular			
9.	STATE PRESENT PI	HYSICAL DESCRIPTIC	ON OF THE SITE C	R STRUCTUR	E (SEE OPTIO	NAL DECRIPTION WORK SHEE	T. 1 PAGE MAXIMUM)	
	(See attached)							
	*			<del>*************************************</del>				
		***************************************		44.44				
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	W-74					3		

# HISTORIC-CULTURAL MONUMENT APPLICATION

NAME OF PROPOS	ED MONUMENT	Bob Baker Marionette Theater							
10. CONSTRUCTION DATE:	1953	FACTUAL	ESTIMATED:						
11. ARCHITECT, DESIGNER, OR	ENGINEER Unknown	-							
12. CONTRACTOR OR OTHER I	2. CONTRACTOR OR OTHER BUILDER M.B. Paul (Original owner)								
3. DATES OF ENCLOSED PHOTOGRAPHS All exteriors; Nov. 2008, interiors; Nov. 2008 and Oct. 2006 (1 8X10 BLACK AND WHITE GLOSSY AND 1 DIGITAL E-MAILED TO CULTURAL HERITAGE COMMISSION@LACITY.ORG)									
14. CONDITION: EXCELLEN	T 🔽 GOOD 🔲 FA	IR DETERIORATED	NO LONGER IN EXISTENCE						
15. ALTERATIONS Front entran	ce way no longer includes	decorative awning and circus	s sculptures from period of						
significance (1960's and 1970's). Owner plans to restore.									
16. THREATS TO SITE: NON		EVELOPMENT [] VANDALISI	M PUBLIC WORKS PROJECT						
17. IS THE STRUCTURE: 🔽 ON		MOVED UNKNOWN							
SIGNIFICANCE	COLUMN TO THE PARTY OF THE PART	Lammaria .							
BRIEFLY STATE HISTORICAL AND/OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: INCLUDE DATES, EVENTS, AND PERSON ASSOCIATED WITH THE SITE (SEE ALSO SIGNIFICANCE WORK SHEET, 750 WORDS MAXIMUM IF USING ADDITIONAL SHEETS)  (See attached)									
. 19. SOURCES (LIST BOOKS, DOCUM	ients, surveys, personal inter	TEWS WITH DATES) (See attache	·d)						
20. DATE FORM PREPARED	12/12/2008	PREPARER'S NAME	Lauren Everett						
ORGANIZATION Historic TI	neater Committee	STREET ADDRESS 1047 F	typerion Ave. #7						
CITY Los Ar	igeles STATE	CA ZIP CODE 90029	PHONE (310) 699-1142						
E-MAIL ADDRESS: mydarli	ngclementyne@yahoo.com								

### **Historic-Cultural Monument Application**

Bob Baker Marionette Theater

#### Statement of Significance:

Bob Baker is a Los Angeles native who has been active and influential in the field of puppetry for more than 65 years, and he is widely acknowledged by his peers as one of the most important puppeteers of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. At age 84 Baker remains passionately committed to bringing live theater into the lives of Angelenos - especially children - and preserving the vanishing art of puppetry.

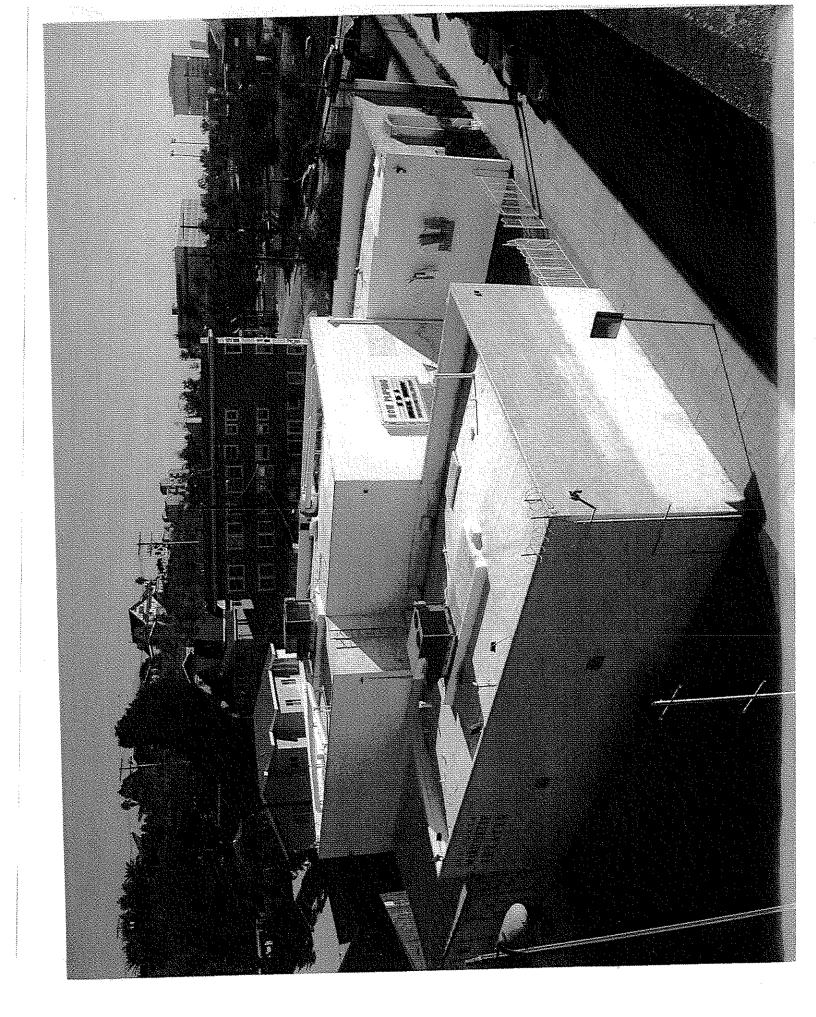
Bob Baker began to work with puppets as a child of 7, performing at friends' birthday parties for a small fee. By the time he was a student at Hollywood High, he was already working with several local companies and selling his hand-crafted marionettes in department stores like Saks Fifth Avenue and Neiman Marcus. He began an apprenticeship in the early 1940's at Academy Award-winning George Pal Animation, which was known for its innovative use of stop motion animation techniques in the children's fantasy genre. Within a year, Baker had become head of their Paramount-contracted Puppetoons division, and in 1949 went on to form his own company with puppeteer Alton Wood. Some of Bob Baker Productions' 400 plus film and television credits include *Bedknobs and Broomsticks, Close Encounters of the Third Kind, A Star is Born, Escape to Witch Mountain*, and *Star Trek*. The company also worked closely with Disney as a consultant, and designed many window displays for the theme park.

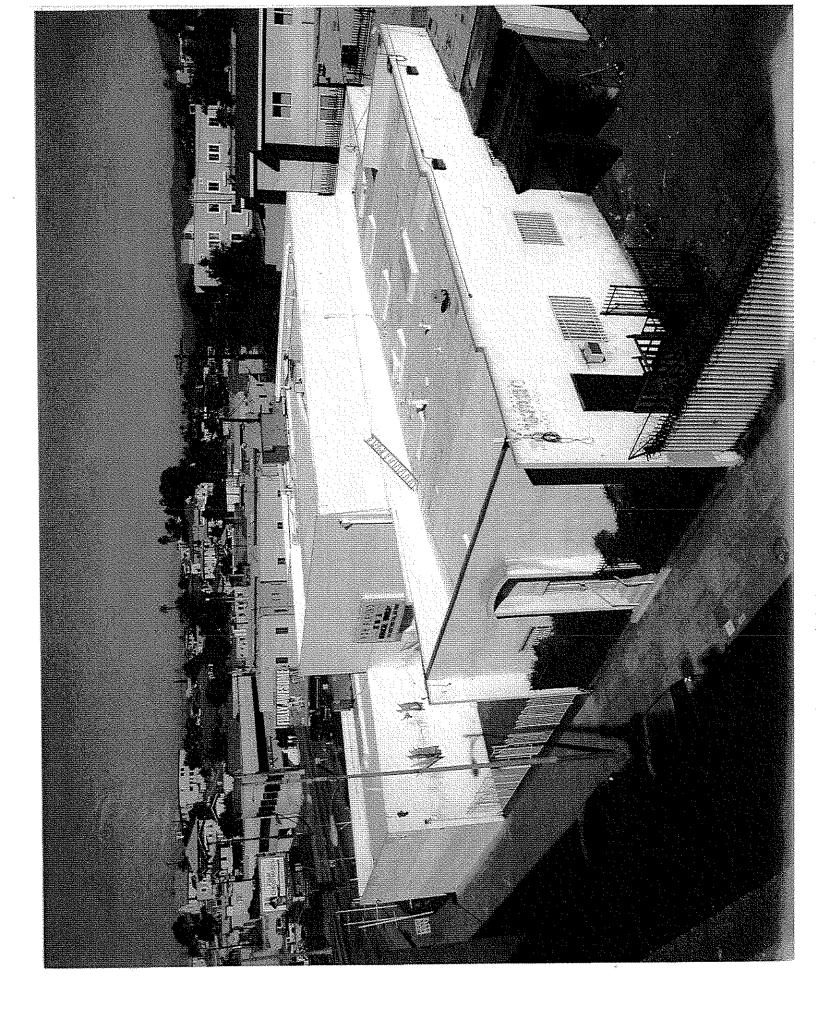
In 1961 Bob Baker and Alton Wood purchased an old scene shop at 1345 W. 1<sup>st</sup> St, that had previously been the workshop of Academy Award-winning special effects artist M.B. Paul. They converted the run-down building into a live puppet theater and a permanent showcase for their original puppet shows and handcrafted Marionettes. The site has continued to serve the community in this capacity for the last 45 years, despite Wood's death in 2001.

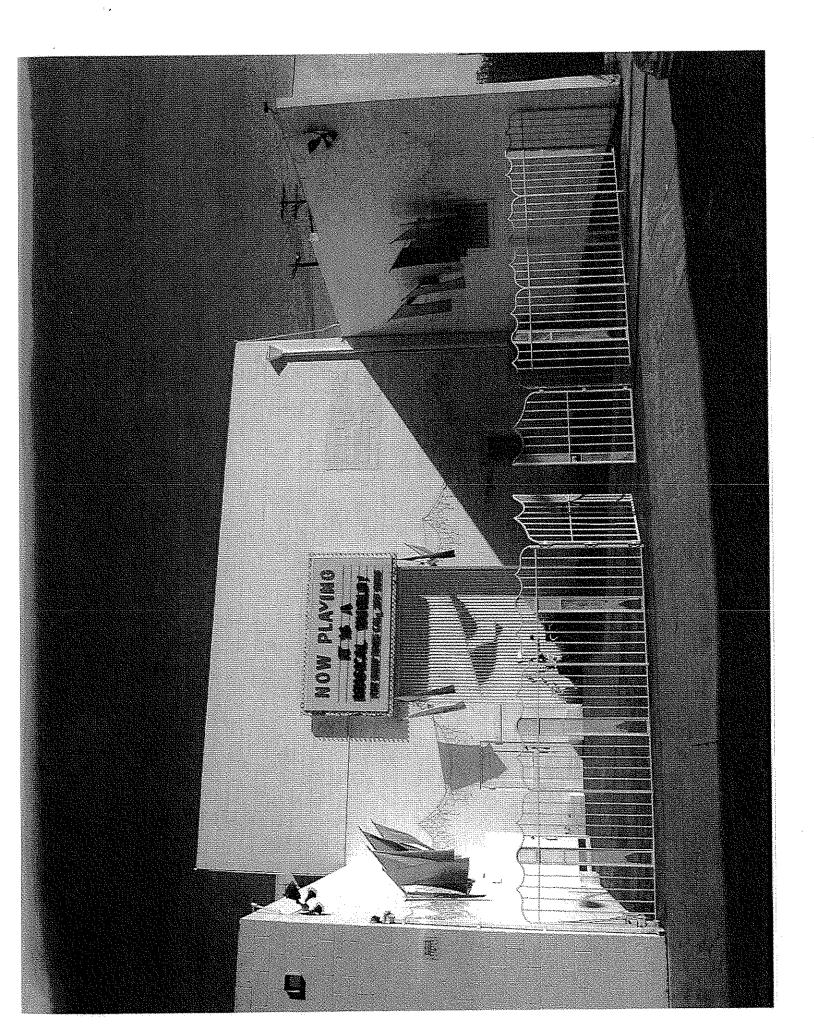
Today Bob Baker Marionette Theater is the longest-running puppet theater in the country and the only one of its kind in the city of Los Angeles. It boasts a collection of over 3000 hand-made marionettes, and holds shows six days a week. With roughly 60,000 school children a year attending shows as part of the theater's relationship with LAUSD, Bob Baker Marionette Theater has entertained nearly 3 million children in since its inception. In a recent article *The New York Times* called a trip to the theater, "...a staple of a Los Angeleno childhood", and the shows have received numerous "best of" recommendations in publications such as *Los Angeles Magazine*.

The building also houses the non-profit Academy of Puppetry and Allied Arts, where high school students from this underserved part of Los Angeles have the opportunity to learn the art of puppeteering from the Baker himself. In the true spirit of master and apprentice, these young students also comprise the majority of puppeteers performing in the daily shows at the theater. If not for this program it is unlikely most of these kids would ever have an experience like this.

Bob Baker Marionette Theater is a true gem of Los Angeles culture, and Bob Baker is a rare artist whose mission in life is simply to make others happy and give back to the community through doing what he loves. Please insure that the theater he created has its place in our built urban landscape for generations to come.

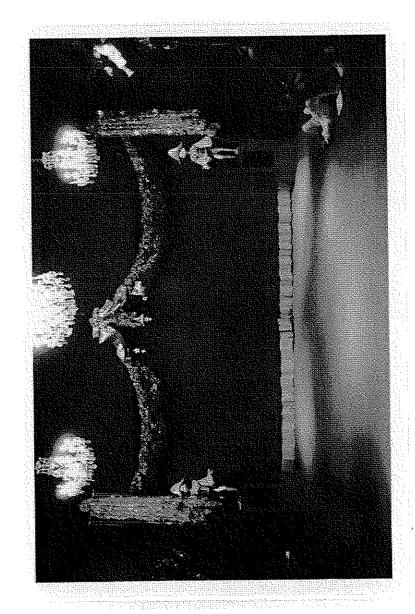












#### **Historic-Cultural Monument Application**

**Bob Baker Marionette Theater** 

#### **Physical Description:**

The Bob Baker Marionette Theater is one story vernacular building with an L shape plan. The structure has a flat asphalt roof and a white painted brick finish, with vertical sliding vinyl windows.

The north wing of the building (lot 5), which houses the studio and reception room, is set all the way up to the sidewalk and the name of the theater is painted into its north wall, facing the parking lot. A pair of double wood doors with scalloped tops open from the lot into the puppet studio in back. The southern portion (lot 4) houses the theater itself, and is set back about 25 feet from the sidewalk with a substantially higher roof than the other wing. An adjacent building, also owned by Baker but not part of the proposed monument, abuts the side of the theater forming a small front courtyard entrance.

The entryway courtyard features a marquee, on which the title of the current production is displayed, and roughly a dozen colored flags hang on poles from the three courtyard walls. The courtyard wall facing the street has a two panel door situated to the viewer's left, a loading door with corrugated sliding metal gate positioned to the center, and a box office window on the right enclosed in security bars. An ornamental white iron fence standing about four feet high separates the courtyard from the sidewalk.

Significant interior spaces include the red-curtained performance room, with harlequin clown figurines at both corners of the stage. Metallic streamers and bunting adorn the walls, and lighting is provided by three crystal chandeliers and multi-colored stage lights made out of coffee cans. Chairs form a "u" shape around the stage area which is defined by blue carpeting, while the seating area is defined by red carpeting.

\*Please see site plan attached.

### **Historic-Cultural Monument Application**

**Bob Baker Marionette Theater** 

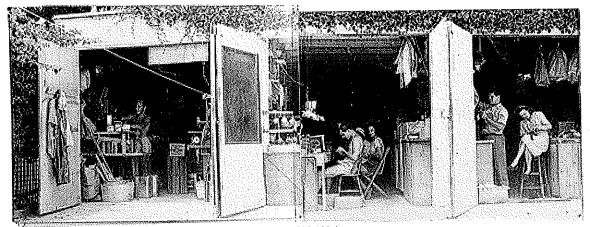
#### Sources:

- "Purse Strings Tighten at Bob Baker Marionette Theater"
   Los Angeles Times, November 22<sup>nd</sup> 2008 by Cara Mia DiMassa
- 2. Correspondence with Gregory Williams; Bob Baker employee and associate for 36 years
- 3. "Forget Citigroup, Puppet Show Needs a Bailout" New York Times, December 2<sup>nd</sup> 2008 by Jennifer Steinhauer
- 4. Wikipedia entry; http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bob\_Baker\_Marionette\_Theater
- 5. New York Times online biography; http://movies.nytimes.com/person/302660/Bob-Baker/biography
- 6. Official website; http://www.bobbakermarionettes.com/index.html
- 6. Parcel Profile Report (attached)
  City of Los Angeles Department of Planning
  http://zimas.lacity.org/

## **Bob Baker Marionette Theater:**

Archival photos (1940's – 2008)

Prepared by Lauren Everett <a href="mydarlingclementyne@yahoo.com">mydarlingclementyne@yahoo.com</a>



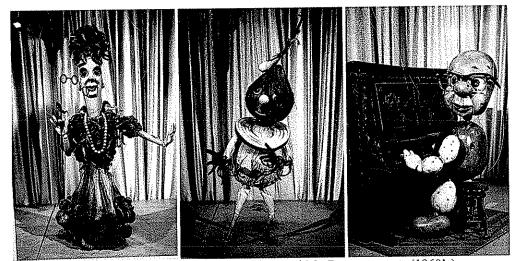
Bob Baker's original puppet workshop in Koreatown (1950's)



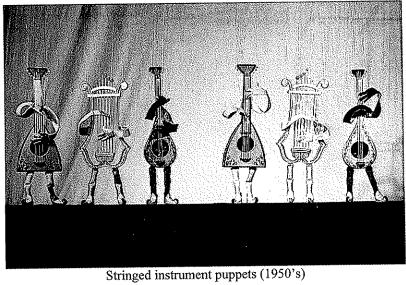
Bob Baker in his puppet workshop (1950's)

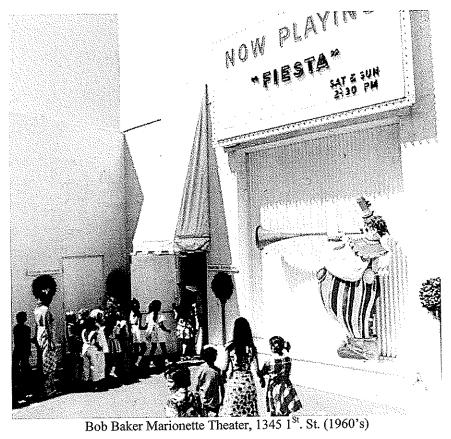


Bob Baker Productions' work on G.I. Blues starring Elvis Presley (1960)



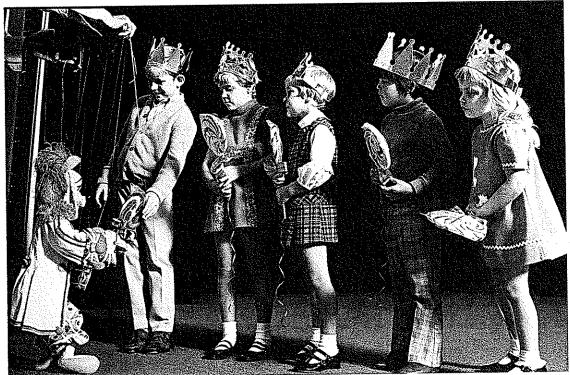
Left to right; Mrs. Broccoli, Mr. Onion, and Mr, Potato puppets (1960's)



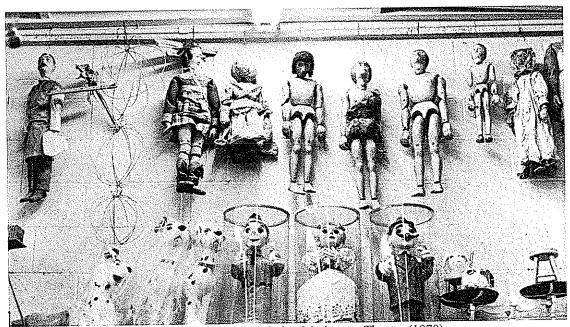




Theater party room (1960's)



Theater birthday ceremony (1970)



Puppet workshop at Bob Baker Marionette Theater (1970)



Bob Baker in puppet workshop (1970)



Costumer Ursula Heinle in puppet workshop (1970)



Bob Baker's partner Alton Wood at theater (1970's)





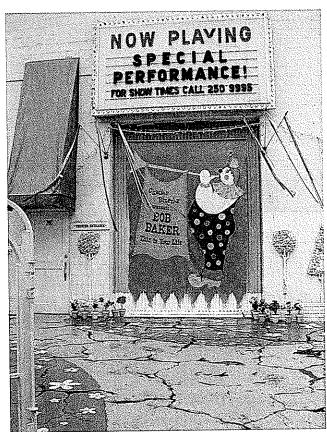
School children receive a tour of the puppet workshop (1970's)



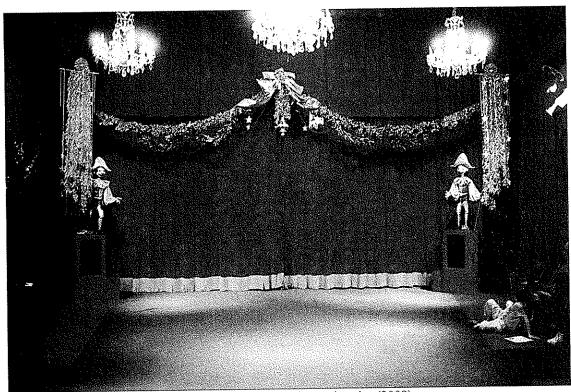
Halloween show with Money Cat puppets (1970's)



Production of "Something to Crow About" at the theater (2006)



Theater entrance with advertisement for "Bob Baker: This is Your Life", Charles Phoenix tribute (2006)



Bob Baker Marionette Theater interior (2008)







Bob Baker with one of his creations (2008) New York Times

### **Bob Baker Marionette Theater:**

Selected Press Clippings from The Los Angeles Times (1940's – 1980's)

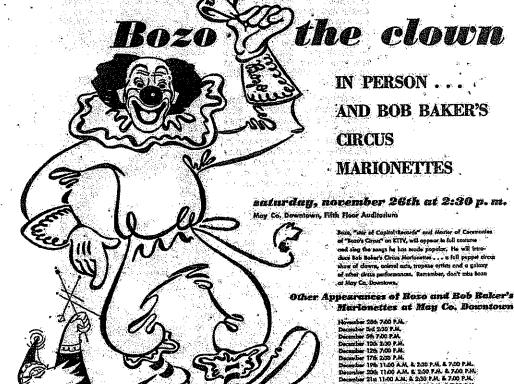
Prepared by Lauren Everett mydarlingclementyne@yahoo.com



Display Ad 24 -- No Title Los Angeles Times (1886-Current File): Aug 16, 1948; pg. C3

> Display Ad 16 -- No Title Los Angeles Times (1886-Current File); Nov 25, 1949; pg, 19

THE CHILDREN'S NUMBER 1 TELEVISION AND RECORD STAR



UNDER THE CHRISTMAS TREE AT

DOWNTOWN Sure, Brooking, Eighth & Hill, Till 4211, Hone; 9:13 to 5:10 (Men. 17:10 to 9:20)

\* AV co. DOWNTOWN

CRI Mapes and Eddle Bookman will be in our De

# Carrousel

by BRANDY BRENT

A FEW MONTHS back this department went into ecatasies over the intrigues of a new sard game called canasta. So much so, in fact that, like the sorcerer's apprentice, once we got launched on the thing we were unable to stop before an entire column was used up!

AT THE time the game was called everything from a flash in the pan to an idlot's delight and, tired of ducking derision and epithets from that portion of our bridge and gin rummy-playing public that had not yet "had the treatment," we put on a pair of seven-league canasta shoes and fied to the comparative safety of private homes.

FOR A WHILE it was not dissimilar to what the early Christians must have had to endure in order to meet in the categombs, esoterically! But only for a time. Because what should be looming on the social horizon one week from today at moon but a CANASTA TOURNAMENT!

SPONSORED BY Violet Bonner, Verbena Hebbard, Mrs. Victor Ford Collins and Marge (Mrs. Ed) Maltby, the clash will occur at a noon brunch in the BHills Hotel's Rodeo Room. Special invitations have been mailed out to 65 ladies and, according to present pryings, acceptances are pouring in.

AND GENTS, get ready. If this first tilt of the fair sex winds up without a pitched battle of interpretive wits, there'll be one later on in which any man who dares may participate. Yessir, looks like the basket (canasta in Spanish) is loaded with enough grub to make a LONG stay of it!

ANOTHER PRETTY addition to the already well-blessed Southern California social scena is Michele Farmer, the lovely daughter of Gloria Swanson and former husband, Michael Farmer, Now a smiling-eyed, sophisticated 17, Michele can be expected to flutter the hearts of

lots of the just-graduated younger swains.

AS A MATTER of fact, it looks like handsome young R. J. Wagner already is quite impressed. The other day at a brunch given by her glamorous mother we caught R. J. looking Michele's way more than once!

LEAVE IT to Gloria to devise, interesting, novel ways of entertaining her guestal. This time it was nothing less than the beautifully costumed, superbly executed marionetts show of Bob Baker that was set up in her apartment. Supposedly for such moppets as Christopher, Lierry and Brooke Anderson the lady's bouncing grandchildren.

BUT SUCH a fascinating show it was that every adult in the room was apelibound before it was over. These included the noted designer, Rone Huber, Bob and Gloria Ander-



ENGAGED — The betrethal of Rosemary Ryan to James Joseph Jordan has been announced. [Rogers photo.]

son, Alex Tiers, Jim Magin, and yours truly . . . in addition of course, to Michels and R. J.

CHERRIES AND charity will blend tomorrow and Saturday at the Farmers Market when members of the League for Crippled Children act as sales-women for the ton and a half of the luscious fruit donated for the cause by the Beaumont Cherry Growers Association. All proceeds go to the league's philanthropic work at Orthopaedic Hospital so get out your pitters, mashers and wine presses and go to town!

W.W. HAWKINS, Scripps-Howard bigwig, and Missus H. (the former Margaret Culbertson Scripps) are at the Santa Barbara Riltmore. Rose Lee Lipsey was feted on her birthday at Tail 'o the Cock, among those joining the celebration being Mary Lowry, Jaqueline Goodwin, Libby Davidson, Barbara Crawford, Ruth Richards, Edna Daudistel, Lois Rickert and Margot Kurl.

CAFE CARROUSEL saw the Richard F. Dwyers at the Cocoanut Grove. . . Mrs. John F. O'Brien Jr. entertained at The King's for Judge and Mrs. Ernest E. Winslow of Gotham prior to the latters' departure for an Alaskan vacation . . . The Herbert Lyonses celebrated her birthday recently at Mary Gannon's Hickory House.

### eles Times (1886-Current File); Nov 12, 1959;



PUPPET PRACTICE -Mrs. Jerome Pearl and her two daughters, Wendy and Robin, try their hand with two Bob Baker marionettes which will be used in the Alpha benefit show Saturday at Occidental College.

ART COMES TO LIFE IN LAGUNA
Los Angeles Times (1886-Current File); Jul 8, 1962;
pg. M23



LAGUNA ARTS FESTIVAL ÓPENS SATURDAY

### ART COMES TO LIFE IN LAGUNA

Famous paintings brought to life with living models are highlights of the Festival of Arts and the Pageant of the Masters at Laguna Beach. The 27th annual festival begins Saturday and continues through Aug. 12. More than 100,000 persons annually view the show. John Callan is the producer and director with Eugene Ober directing an 18-piece orchestra. The "living" pictures highlight the arts festival but this year the new Bob Baker marionette show. "Get Happy," will also be on the scene. Displays feature works of painters, sculptors, ceramists, photographers and handicraft artisans. The Junior Art Gallery exhibits student work. Pictured is "High Yaller" by Reginald Marsh. The living portrayal is by Ruth Swanson.

# 40 Children Will Be Guests at Yule Party

Cleland House of Neighborly Service will be guests of the Women's Breakfast Club's annual children's Christmas party today.

It will be held in the Bev-erly Hills Hotel's Crystal Room, at 10:45 a.m. Bob Baker's Marlonottes will present a "Christmas Fan-tasy" for the small guests, and for each one, there will be a new sweater, a doll or a toy, and a stocking filled with fruit, candy and nuts.

David Miller, in the Santa Claus role, will distribute the gifts.

Honor Guests

The club will give another Chritmas gift on this occasion, when Mrs. Marshall Smith, philanthropy chairman, turns over a \$1,300 check to Mrs. Hallock Crippled Children's Guild of the Orthopaedic Hospital.

the Orthopaedic Hospital.

Mrs. Walter A. Menke,
president, will preside and
Mrs. Cecile Taylor is to present the entertainment.

BEVERLY HILLS—For-ty youngsters from the Rev. Walter James, of the Presbytery of Los Angeles, B. Thomas, president of the sponsor of Cleland House; Mmes. Marshall Smith, Hal-lock Thomas, Lars Bergh, George Hunt, Cecile Taylor and Miller.

Bookleaves of the club, whose chairman is Mrs. Agatha Morse Burson hold their Christmas luncheon Thursday at Mrs. Menke's home. Mrs. Menke has also invited her board to a Christmas party Dec. 21, at 11 am 11 a.m.



ADVANCE LOOK -Mrs. Robert Weir, youth chairman of the Monterey Park Women's Club Juniors. gives a few children a preview of what's in store for them at a special marionette show scheduled by the club; Saturday, Jan. 26, for the youngsters.

# Marionette Show Slated for Monterey Park

Two performances of the nettes will be given at 1 Bob Baker Marionette Show and 3 p.m. The life-like will be held Saturday, Jan. marionettes will perform 26, for the youth of this among the spectators as community under sponsor- well as charm them with ship of the Monterey Park the show.
Wenney's Club Juniors.
Mrs. Robert Weir, youth mances may be obtained at

chairman, announced that the recreation center or by

MONTEREY PARK - performances of the mario-

calling Mrs. Weir. All' proceeds will be used to benefit the Community Center Youth Program.



HUMAN PUPPET-Mrs. Engene Eichler acts as a pupper much to the delight of Zenon Sygmont, left, and Dirk Kleinhesselink who will see real pupper show Saturday, May 4, in Palos Verdes Estates. Show is sponsored by Las Madrecitas.

# Marionette Show to Aid Orthopaedic Hospital

TATES - Las Madrecitas gling with the children. will sponsor a benefit performance of the Bob Baker
Marionette Show at 2 and
3:30 p.m. Saturday, May 4,
at the Valmonte School,
3801 Via La Selva,

Congleton, Walter Hetz and
Congress of the sevent. 3801 Via La Selva.

Las Madrecitas is the South Bay auxiliary of the Crippled Children's Guild Orthopaedic Hospital. Proceeds will benefit the hospital's pediatric ward.
The marionettes will be

PALOS VERDES ES- with the marionettes min-

George Savage.

Baker's Puppets at Marionette Theater CECIL SMITH

Los Angeles Times; Dec. 13th, 1967



STRING ALONG... Bob Boker Marionettes on stage.

### Baker's Puppets at Marionette Theater

BY CECIL SMITH

There's always an immense demand for children's thoater during the Christmas season but most of what is offered the kids is pretty bad — familiar stories in husbarard production and indifferent performance. A great exception is Bob Baker's Manionetts Theater. Here is professionalism at the highest level, imaginative, colorful, dealing basically in fanctival shortradions rather than telling still another twicefold tale. What is more important is that the children and there were nearly 200 of them there Saturday morning, most of them the 2-5 sign bracket—sat transfixed, enchanted by the proceedings. I was as enchanted as they.

Bakeriz Christmas show this year, "Surprise Package," involves a glistening a benevolem! witch, a little they at bettime, bells that turn into dancing madios, and toys, performing, Druins march into the areas beating themselves, a stuffed dephant waddies by winking 2 long-lasted eye, a redheaded rag doll does an eye-rolling ilong dance, a jumping jack leage skyward from his lost.

leans skyward from his box.

Areas Skyle

All of these acts and more are played down with the children themselves. In Baker's handsome red and white theaten at 1845 W. Ist. St. (the junction of ist. St. and Glendale Bird.), the kids att in a wide circle on the scarlet capsated floor and the puppets move out from the red velvet processman to pentorm in areas style, moving closs to the kids, touching them, even crawling onto their lays. To a remarkable tape of minic and songs (some congs in French, the acts flow quickly and the effect is less a variety revue than

a series of forms and movements that create a wonderfully functivit ex-perience like a child's dream. Oh, there are condream, Oh, there are con-crete segments—one in-volving Santa and Mrz. Claus, some acts have their specific songs, like "The Bear on the Ball With the Parasol," but most of the program has this dreamland, fairyland coulty.

this dramiland, isiryland quality.

Alton Wood, long Baker's partner, and his puppeters, dressed in red, virtually melt into carpet and drayer and scenery. You are almost unaware of their presence, so fully is the focus on the exquisitely made and costumed dolls they manipulate. Some of these marionettes are so complex that they cost up to \$500 aplece to make and scores of them are used in each production.

Two Shows Daily Baker and Wood have

Baker and Wood have been puppeteers in this area for 18 years but they opened their own theater area for 18 years but they opened their own theater only four years ago. It plays through the year on weekends. Beginning next Monday for the holidays, two shows will be presented daily—at 12 am. and 2 p.m. In addition to the theater, they have a second troupe on road tours which stretch as far east as Des Moines and as far north as Boise, playing fairs, churches, clubs and various special dailes. Additionally, they do puppet work and special daies. Additionally, they do puppet work and special effects for television and movier. But their theater workshop is their first love and it's their ambitton next year to stage a full-cale pupped production of "The Nuturacker" for Christmas—a production that would cost upwards of \$50,000.

After Saturday's performance, mothers gathered around Wood, telling him that never before had they seen junior sit still for 10 minutes, much less an hour. Wood's stock answer: "We spread magic dust around." This, they have in abundance.

Puppet Show Biz Booms for Children MARY LOU LOPER

Los Angeles Times (1886-Current File); Dec 17, 1968;

# Puppet Show Biz Booms for Children

BY MARY LOU LOPEB

Santa was having problems. "I'm having all sorts of trouble with my reindeer—I've lost Rudolph," he said, and he called up the Milky Way Garage.
Rudolph pranced out, his nose lit

Then Mrs. Claus appeared and danced the Merry Christmas Polka with Santa.

Kids laughed,
Kids laughed,
They always do when Bob Baker's
Marionettes are performing.
And at the Bel-Air Bay Club

Sunday, not even the Hong Kong flu-could stymie an overflow crowd to watch: Baker's annual Christmas

After running a puppet touring company 20 years, Baker and his partner Alton Wood established their own theater five years ago.

#### Touring Shows

They are so busy this Christmas season that they are presenting 60 touring puppet shows, in addition to the performances at their theater-in-the-round at 1345 West 1st St.

The theater seats 200. The Christ-

mas shows are presented Saturday and Sunday at 2:30 p.m., and between Dec. 23 and Jan. 5 will be presented daily at 2 p.m., excluding Christmas and New Year's days.

Baker, whose puppets are in museums around the country, and Wood, who started out to be a concert planist, pool their talents to write their own shows, music, construct the puppets.

A taket for a performance at the

construct the puppets.

A ticket for a performance at the Marienetts Theater, includes not only the 70-minute show, but a tour of the puppet workshop and refreshments on the party patio (ice creamand cookies, punch, tea and coffee).

Birthday children are crowned prince or princess for the day and a

Please Turn to Page 15, Col. S

Continued from First Page puppet brings the birthday, boy or girl a present during the performance.

Baker says he started his theater not only because of his personal interest in puppets, but because children's theater is important to youngsters.

CBS-TV Announces Children's Theater CECIL CMITH Los Angeles Times; Jan 22, 1969

#### CECIL SMITH

### CBS-TV Announces Children's Theater

CBS is launching a new children's theater that will be a companion to its Blustrious CBS Playhouse.



Like the playhouse, it will deal primarily in original drama concerned with contemporary themes that will be meaningful and pertinent to the 5-to-10 year old sel. Playhouse executive produces? Rarbara Schultz will be in charge of the new venture with Jacqueine Balbini, who has a hoat of TV dramutic credite, as producer.

Mike basm, thend of programing for Six elegithmid from New Sould or, amounted from New Sould or, amounted from New Sould or, amounted it summned it is mounted in the latent of the latent.

Alike said the network is committing a whopping 200,000 to develop scripts for the program, he stropped such famous names as those of Stirling Silliphant, Reginald Rose, J. P. Miller and Tad Mosel as representative of the caliber of writer he hopes to interest in writing plays for children.

Like the playhouse, he said, the serios will be produced at irregular intervals "whenever a script is ready." The program will be slotted on Saturday mornings in the middle of the cartoon black of programs.

Mike said the plays will be produced with all the care of the major dramatic efforts of CRS Playhouse, with first-rate actors but not necessarily stars.—I don't think kids give a damn shout names," Some of the shows, he said, will be made in England.

"Well probably tape the plays because I want this to be a thratrical experience rather than a movie," soid lann. "Well probably tape the plays because I want this to be a thratrical experience rather than a movie," soid lann. "Well probably tape the plays because I want this to be a thratrical experience rather than a movie," soid lann. "Well probably tape the plays because I want this to be a thratrical experience rather than a movie," soid lann. "Well probably tape the plays because I want this to be a thratrical experience rather than a movie," soid lann.

#### A Tall Order

A Tall Order

Doing plays that will be meaningful for small fry is a tall order. I think most children's plays are abominable because they underestimate the grasp of the kids. Shaw wrole "Androcles and the Llon" as a children's play, but it is almost always performed for adults. The most enchanting work it we seen here for the very sound is the plays of Bob Baker's Marionettes, which are quite abstract and fautints.

This season, programs for children have been potentiating gesters. Until recently. "Holds" led all lists as the most popular special of the year; the two Charlle Brown repeats were close behind, and "Babar the Elephant' was a major bit that will be repeated April 21.

Having a 5-year-old critic on hand, I asked him what he thought of Dann's idea, Soberty he said that the more good shows for children that were around the better. I asked him what he considered a good show for children. "The bestett," he said, "is Mr. Rogers Neightorhood."

Mr. Rogers is on Channel 28 each alternoon and it deals with varieties and insender.

asked nim what he considered a good snow for children. "The besiest," he said, "is Mr. Rogers Neighborhood."

Mr. Rogers is on Channel 28 each afternoon and it deals with watcher participation, puppels and people, intermixing these as it shifts from reality to fantary. There is a flashing street light on the program connected to a fin can telephone that I find particularly intriguing. Otherwise, my young critic has little interest in Capt. Kangaroo. He's addicted to Julia for the wrangling between Corey and Earl J. Wagedorn and he likes the Ranana Spills.

RECENT WORK—the highly totted TV mocie, "Trial Run," I found rather disappointing on NRC Saturday night Despite some rather siles film-making by director William Graham and a powerful performance by Losie Nielsen, the picture attacked its subject matter of variations on evil with all the subtlety of a sledge-hammer.

nammer.

It offered Nielsen as a renowned attorney with a flagrantly unfaithful wife. His firm is called upon to defend a man who has killed his faithless wife. He dispatches James Franciscus as a blindly ambitious young lawyer to handle the case while he sits among the spectators, identifying himself with the man on trial.



STRINGS ATTACHED- Getting into the spirit for marionette show the Hermosa Community Library Board will sponsor at Hermosa Drive School are, from left, Mrs. Perry Paulson, Anna Maria Liberio, 6, and Mrs. George Ferguson.

#### Sunday AUG. 1 ORANGE COUNTY

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Orange Geory;

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Friday, July 20 Lambs, 1:20 P.M. — Hogs & East, 6:30 P.M.

FREE TREES TO HAWAII -

Dracula Doll Star of Revue Los Angeles Times (1886-Gurrem File): Sep 2, 1964; pg. F12

### Dracula Doll Star of Revue

Purple people esters, witches, Count Dracula, and the dancing starks and the dancing surrar are some of the featured performers at the Bob Baker Marionette Theater, 1345 West First St. in Los Angeles.

All, and many more,

appear in the 10 act "Sketch Book Revue" now being featured at this only puppet theater-in-the-round in the United States. They provide 80 minutes of fun and ex-citement for the audience in a theater where every-thing is on strings.

Matines performances begin at 2:30 on Wednes-

day, Saturday and Sun-

MARIONETTES WILL ENTERTAIN CHILDREN

FULLERTON multi-purpose room at. Hermosa Drive School will be converted into a theater-in-the-round for presentation of Bob Baker's

"Marionettes in the Round," a new holiday show, at 2 p.m. and again at 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 4.

Children will be seated around the stage, according to Mrs. George Ferguson, chairman.

The play is being pre-sented by the Hermosa Community Library Board as a pre-holiday entertainment for youngsters of the area.

Proceeds will help finance the purchase of books for the library.

Tickets will be available at the library Monday, Wednesday and Friday, according to Mrs. Albert Chovit, tickets chairman. Mrs. Jack Emery is

heading a group of com-munity teen agers who will decorate the hall and sell hot dogs, soft drinks and candy, starting at 1

Chairman for the event is Mrs. Howard Block, board vice president Mrs. Arthur Gibbs is publicity chairman.

KABC TO AIR 'PINOCCHIO'
Lor Angeles Times (1886-Current File): Jun 14, 1963;

# KABC TO AIR

A special hour-long music-al dramatization of Pinoc-chio will be presented by the presented by voices. Channel 7 on Sunday, June 30 at 6 p.m. The production will feature Paul Winchell as Gepetto and his purpor Gepetto and his puppet, Jerry Mahoney, in the title role.

Also featured will be the Bob Baker Marionettes. The

BAKER MARIONETTES IN NEW PRODUCTION FREDERIC MILSTEIN Law Angeles Topies (1886-Current File); Mar 9, 1973; 92, F13.

# BAKER MARIONETTES IN NEW PRODUCTION

That institution on 1345 w. 1st St. called the Bob Baker Marionette Theater has a spiffy new produc-tion named \*Spooks and Clowns" and an extra Saturday 10:30 a.m. show now added to its regular schedule of performances on Saturday and Sunday at 2:30 p.m.

Baker's puppets—from whimsical Draculas and Vampires to all manner of anthropolds and ostriches in circus garb—are still gorgeous, meticulously wrought, and very inven-

tive. They still walk right up to you if you're sitting on the floor of "The Magic Circle" where lots of kids gathered last Saturday afternoon) and, because of skillful lighting and sheer marionette magnetism, you're prone not to notice that relatively uninteresting puppeteer who walks behind and towers above. Afterwards, the traditional ice cream, punch and cookies, plus a tour of the workshop. Birthday par-ties encouraged. —FREDRIC MILSTEIN

PUPPET 'STARS' AN INVOLVING SHOW JOHN CMAHONEY Lox Angeles Times (1886-Current File); Dec 29, 1982;

# PUPPET 'STARS' AN INVOLVING SHOW

. By JOHN C. MAHONEY

The Bob Baker Marianettea "Christmas in the Stars" may be the most wholly involving holiday show in town. Employing marionettes and pupes snow in town, employing marionettes and pup-pels from the tinlest to life-size and larger-than-life-size, animated props, black light transformations, an assortment of dazzling special effects and full involve-ment by the audience, the show is a particular delight for preschoolers and the elementary school set.

The Baker Theater, which is approaching its 20th year of operation, combines both a proscenium stage and a large curpeted expanse encircled by seated young. sters, to which five marionette operators carry many of the performing characters. These puppet characters perform to prerecorded and neatly segued holiday and specialty numbers, some held over from previous shows at the theater.

The current engagement involves a tour conducted by the Christmas Star to encounter other "stars" in the Christmas galaxy-snowmen, skaters, snowflakes, skeletons, carolers, bakers, kitchen utensil robots, teddy bears in racing cars, Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer and Santa himself. The action even includes a vintage color cartoon illustrating "Twas the Night Before Christmas.

At the close of a dazzling production, the young puppeteers escort the audience on tours of the puppet workshop and to the refreshment area to cap a perfect afternoon's entertainment.

The holiday show continues Saturdays at 10 a.m., 1:30 and 4:30 p.m. and Sundays at 1:30 and 4:30 p.m. through Jan. 9, at 1345 West 1st St., but phone the theater at 624-3973 for a schedule of special weekday performances

HOLIDAY SHOWS SANS TINY TIM

DAN SULLIVAN Los Angeles Times (1886-Current File); Dec 14, 1981

HOLIDAY SHOWS SANS TINY TIM

By DAN SULLIVAN, Times Theater Critic

Bob Baker's marionette shows are an authentic L.A. holiday tradition. They have a special appeal for the un-der-10 crowd, who get to sit around the rug in a ring and shake hands with the puppets.

This year's show is a medley of Los Angeles history and traditional holiday cheer, entitled "Holiday, L.A." Its most imaginative sequence is a danse macabre for some flying hoodoos from the La Brea tar pits. There's also a Chinatown number, an Olvera Street number, an earthquake number (tied to a milkshake number, Baker's shows tend to free-associate) and many, many show-biz numbers. "Holiday, Hollywood" would be a

more accurate title. Is Baker's famous rising tinsel Christmas tree looking a little worn this year? Never mind, Cookies and ice cream are served afterward, and the children can tour the back shop Daily performances through the holidays —call 624-3973. The address is 1345 West 1st St., under the Second Street viaduct.

Baker's Marlonettes In 'The Nuteracker' LYNNE HEFFLEY Lot Angeles Times (1886-Current File); Dec 12, 1984; pg. 18

#### Baker's Marionettes in 'The Nutcracker' By LYNNE HEFFLEY

In the Bob Baker Marionette Theatre's version of "The Nut-cracker," loosely based on Tchal-kovsky's ballet, there is magic to be found-not so much in the story, pre-taped and sometimes hard to hear, nor in its sometimes uneven pacing and cartoon music—a cross between Tchaikovsky and Cab Calloway.

The magical elements here are

The magical elements here are the stars of the show—the puppet actors who come to life with the aid of highly skilled puppeteers.

This is a children's show, almed at the 2-to-10 crowd: The theater is a lofty-ceilinged space with a cozy, at-home feel. Kids sit on a plush red carpet (adults behind them on folding chairs). Gold-trimmed red velvet curtains drape the stage and a chandellier gleans in the subdued a chandeller gleams in the subdued lighting.

a chandeller gleams in the subdued lighting.

The puppets never disappoint. There are shadow puppets, rod puppets, hand puppets and marionettes brightly painted and dressed in velvet, satin, spangles and tulle. The show really comes alive when black-garbed puppeters bring the action into the audience. Even thind fittle ones are delighted when a roly-poly bear gives them a hug. For adults, it's fascinating to see close up the craftsmanship involved. (During a waltz of flowers, the grace of the puppeters is as striking as that of the puppets.)

When the action moves back to the stage, the rapport flags, but there are charming moments. Piccolos dance, a mildly spooky black-light number is fur and the Sugar Flum Fairy's ball turns out to be a stroke-fit disco affair.

Sugar Pium Fairy's ball turns out to be a strobe-lit disco affair.
After the show at 1345 West 1st St., there's a workshop tour and free ise cream all around.
"The Nuteracker" plays through early January, Saturdays at 10 a.m., 140 and 4430 p.m. and Sundays at 1.50 and 430 p.m. A weekday schedule varies. Call 250-9995 for information and reservations.

MARIONETTE MAGIC AT BAKER THEATRE

LYNNE HEFFLEY Los Angeles Times (1886-Current File); Mar 15, 1985;

# MARIONETTE MAGIC AT BAKER THEATRE

By LYNNE HEFFLEY

Omical puppets march around the living room-styled theater, nuzzling an ear or perching on a knee. Children seated on the floor hope they'll be chosen next, while parents lean forward for a closer look at glossy painted faces and intricate strings.

painted faces and intricate strings.

The "What's New Revue," an enjoyable potpourri of old and new material at the Bob Baker Marionette Theatre, provides a showcase for skillful marionette magic.

Delightful enough to transcend innocuous music and lyrics (pre-taped) and a noisy, very young crowd, the puppets—tall and short, furry and feathery, spangled, sequined, country plain and city slick—need no story line to hold the attention of their audience.

An almost child-size boy and his

An almost child-size boy and his larger-than-life pet toad do a soft-shoe, a blue-satin-clad Eski-mo ice-skates with a furry polar bear monkeys juggle and walk on

"My Heart Belongs to Daddy" is belted out by a bejeweled black cat belted out by a bejeweled black cat seated on a small audience member's lap (to the envy of those surrounding him), wide-grinning glugham rag dolls do a country dance, and a sad little Pierrot mourns his burst balloon.

In a favorite spot, puppets con-structed from common kitchen utensils become early alien in black light.

The grand finale is an unabash-edly fiag-waving salute to the Statue of Liberty's approaching 100th birthday, complete with flashing lights, soldiers on horse-back and Uncle Sam marching to the tune of "Yankee Doodle."

For the most part, the asile

puppeteers stay one step ahead of the youngsters in the audience, avoiding those with a penchant for grabbing at strings and keeping the interest level high with variety and

(One slip, in a departure from the pre-taped sound track, occurs when a puppeteer has his marionette say the word dummy. With the eager enthusiasm of discovery, several 4- and 5-year-olds echo the word back until shushed by their elders.)

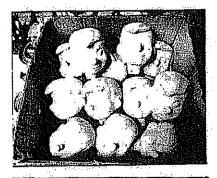
Birthday boys and girls are given special recognition during the pro-duction and after the show, birth-day or not, there's free ice cream for all and a tour of the workshop to

for an and a control the workshop to see where the magle begins. Performances at 1345 West 1st. St. play indefinitely at 2:30 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays (250-9995).

Puppet Makers, Magic Makers EDWARD J BOYER

Los Angeles Times (1886-Current File); Dec 19, 1985; ProQuest Historical Newspapers Los Angeles Times (1881 - 1986).







# Puppet Makers, Magic Makers

A mid sawdust, foam and the pungent smell of lacquer, workers at the design studio in the Bob Baker Marionette Theater make

magic.
"We make puppets for our own shows, and
we also create and custom design puppets and
marionettes for moyies and television," said Tina
Gainsboro, the theater's manager.

Gainsboro, the theater's manager.

The allen who welcomed earthlings at the end of "Close Encounters of the Third Kind," for example, came from the workshop, she said.

Recently, dozens of Pinocchios—some of their body paris cast in "a special, secret lingredient"—were wending their way toward completion.

"They're especially made for Disney and will be sold through Disneyland and Disney World," Gainsboro said.

Nearby, a pride of electronically controlled.

Nearby, a pride of electronically controlled lions, whose heads and tails move, were being readed for the theater's own circus production.

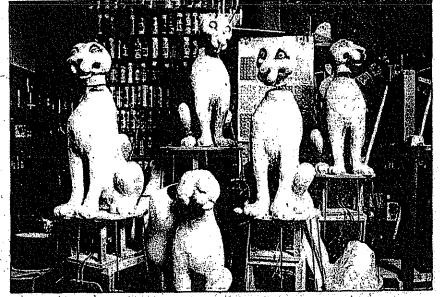
Meanwhile, puppeteer Holly Ratafia meliculously placed marionetic strings on a Victorian gentleman who plays the triangle and sings Christmas Carols in the theater's "street

The theater, at 1845 W. First St., normally produces six performances a week, but that number is doubled during the Christmas season.

Children most attracted to the puppet shows are between 2 and 12 years old, Galasboro said. When they become teen-agers, "they're kind of weird," she added. "But when they get into their 20s, they come back again."

-EDWARD J. BOYER





Photos by RICK MEYER: Los Angeles Times

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# **Bob Baker Marionette Theater:**

Various Press Clippings and Promotional Materials (1940's – 1970's)

Prepared by Lauren Everett
mydarlingclementyne@yahoo.com



•from

\*bob baker

# HOLLYWOOD · MARION ETTES

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NOW ..... NYONE ...

CAN STAGE THEIR OWN PUPPET SHOW.

A CHILD, AT THE AGE OF FOUR CAN LEARN TO OPERATE A PUP-PET. IT HAS PROVEN TO BE A HIGHLY BENEFICIAL MEANS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF RHYTHM AND CO-ORDINATION.

THESE MARIONETTES ARE PRO-FESSIONALLY DESIGNED AND MADE BY SKILLED CRAFTSMEN FOR AMATEUR USE.

A SPECIAL TWO-BAR CONTROL EASILY HELD AND OPERATED, ENABLES THE AMATEUR TO READ-ILY MANIFULATE THE PUPPET.

NOTE...THERE ARE NUMEROUS FORMS OF FUPPETS, SUCH AS ROD FUPPETS, HAND FUPPETS, SHADOY PUPPETS AND STRIKE FUPPETS, THE LATTER BEING MARIONETTES.

Early promotional material from Bob Baker retail puppet line (early 1940's)

# Gala Bond Show! HEY, KIDS! Bring Dad and Molher To See Bob Baker's

# Puppet Show

SATURDAY, JUNE 2nd

TWO PERFORMANCES 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m

7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

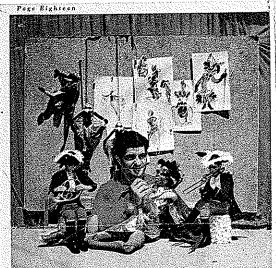
BUY YOUR 7th WAR LOAN BONDS DURING THE SHOW

# **SWANSON'S ELECTRIC & GIFT SHOP**

364 Van Nuys Blyd

STate 5-2633

Early puppet show advertisement (early 1940's)



Bob Baker at work on a marionette for one of his shows.

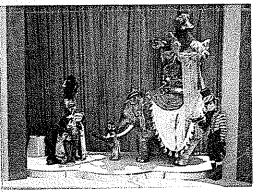
# Baker-Puppet Maker

Mollywood

NE OF THE leading makers of marionettes is young Bob Baker of Hollywood. In the last three years he has made 25,000 of these manifolds and abroad. He makes all original dosigns and others for his puppets and records dialogs and musle for puppet shows. When busy on a big order he employs 45 workers. He gets as much as \$10,000 for a 30 act show with 300 puppets, He began making marionettes 14 years ago, when he was 9, often entertaining neighborhood children with them in his home town of Carmel, Cal. He made and sold marionettes through this high school years there. Illustrations are from photos by Louis Wolf, Tribune Hollywood photografer.



Four figures of a popular marionette show, "The Circus."



Judy, the elephant, is a favorite, along with ringmaster, slave girl, and swami.

## Bob Baker featured in Chicago Tribune (1940's)



Bob Baker in feature about local craftsmen, Hollywood Citizen-News (1947)



Bob Baker Marionettes - University Synagogue (1947)

## Mirst Methodist SENINGI



BOB BAKER MARIONETTES

#### FAMILY NIGHT POT-LUCK WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5

#### "Messiah" This Sunday At 4 O'Clock

At 4 O'Clock
Santa Mosical annual community
precatation of Handel's "Mesilah"
will occur in the Sanctuary of our
Church this Sunday at 4:00 pm. Mr.
Church this Sunday at 4:00 pm. Mr.
Will direct the choic of over 150 voltes,
Tarticipating solistic will be: Jeanna
Determann, Soprano; Rath Baggett
and Ray Baird, Baritone.
This presentation is aponaered Joint
This presentation is aponaered Joint

An evening of outstanding interest, joyment and fellowship is in store members and friends of the Church attend the Family Night Pol-Luck high the Social Hall on Wednesday

Bob Baker Marionettes - First Methodist Church (1954)



PUPPETEERS ALTON WOOD, BOB BAKER AND COMPANY

# Puppetry Is An Ancient Art

Blissful youngsters applauding Shakespeare, Chaucer and Jon-theaters usually are designed fo puppeter: Bob Baker and his son mention puppet shows, adult entertainment as much a miniature musical revue "Some Goethe wrote plays for them, thing To Crow About" in the Mozart and Haydn composed for Pestival of Arts puppet theater them. Even during Puritan days in England, when theatrical net. doubtless are unaware that they accounts are unaware that they in angain, when theatreat grave but carrying on a theatrical formances generally were frown-tradition so ancient no one can led upon, the pupper theater contell when it really started.

In Europe of the Middle Ages puppet shows were by far the most popular form of entertainment. They frequently were presented on eathedral steps, with string puppets acting out stories of a religious nature. Hence, it is said, the name "mariometes" of "little Marys" for its type of "little Marys" for its type of unment that dangles from strings effects. These permanent puppet its pets pets have appeared in many in the Delberg Moreloughter featurette publication unknown (1962)

in England, when theatrical per-

tell when it really started.

It is recorded that there were pupper shows in Greece five centuries before Christ. In Java China and Japan, the art of pupperry dates back to most ancient days.

In Europe of the Middle Ages III Europe of the Middle

was rather limited in scope unt the advent of television, whe it soon became apparent that th niniature movie screen was mad to order for the miniature puppe

Bob Baker Marionettes featurette, publication unknown (1962)

### Wednesday, April 22, 1964 The North Sacramento JOURNAL



Color Los Angeles The inos delightful tourist trap⊄m the world.

Disneyland, Marineland, Jungleland, Movieland Wax Mu-seum, Knotts Berry Farm, Pa-cific Ocean Park, Hollywood Park, Santa Anita, Dodger Stadium, Rose Bowl, movie studios, oil wells, La Brea tar pits, orange groves, Grauman's Chinese theater.

Add The Bob Baker Marlonettes. Whipped cream over den light. First marionette theater in the round. Christmas every day. Contribution to culture. ( Head this vision. Tomorrow to-1

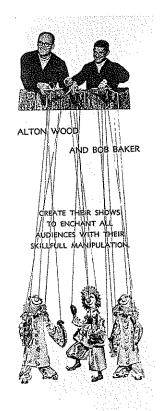
"I've got the world on a string, sittin' on a rainbow." Chorus by Alton Wood and Bob Baker, creative puppeteers. They updated fairyland and transported it into our midst.

Exterior: an attractive decorated building in old Los Angeles at First Street and Glendale boulevard. Five minutes from Civic Center.

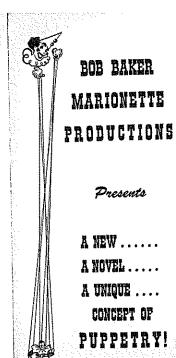
Interior: love at first sight | Red carpeting, vivid curtains with gold fringes, three dazzl-ing crystal chandellers hanging from a 25 foot ceiling. Adults occupy chairs. Youngsters sit on the comfortable carpeting.

Preston Hibbard, as Mr. Gep-etto, puppet maker from "Pin-nochio." He colorfully introduces each segment, His Italian Repassaince costume is contre

Bob Baker Marionette Theater review, North Sacramento Journal (1964)

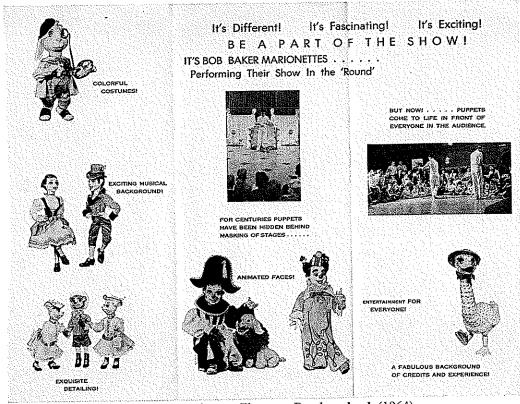




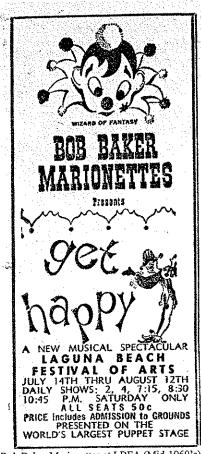


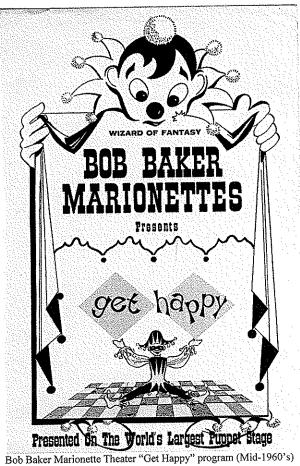
BOB BAKER MARIONETTES 6087 SUNSET BOULEVARD HOLLYWOOD 28, CALIFORNIA HOLLYWOOD 9,2045

Bob Baker Marionette Theater - Brochure front (1964)

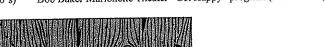


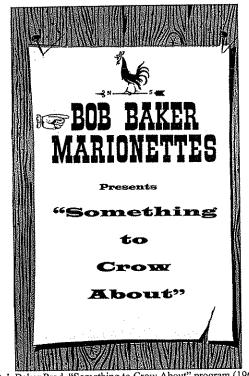
Bob Baker Marionette Theater - Brochure back (1964)



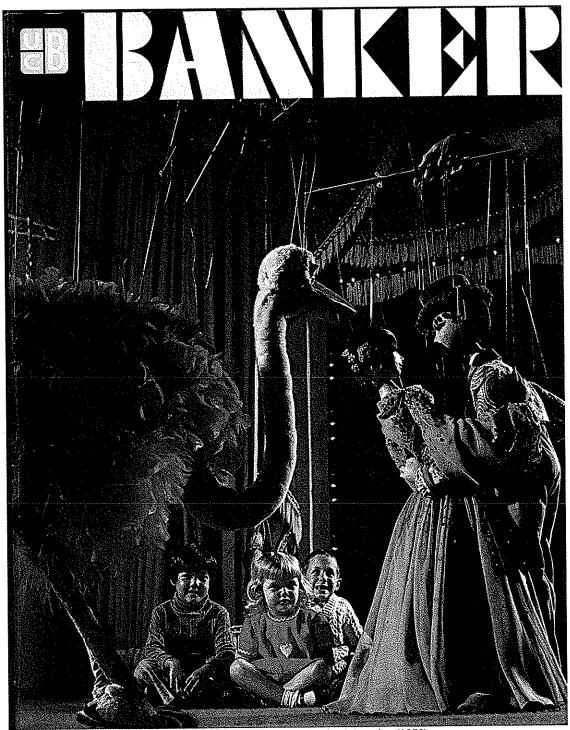


Bob Baker Marionettes at LBFA (Mid-1960's)





Bob Baker Prod. "Something to Crow About" program (1962)



Bob Baker Marionette Theater - Banker Magazine (1970)



**JULY 16-20** 

JULY 23-27

AUG. 6-10

AUG. 13-17

AUG. 20-24

JULY 30-AUG. 3

Open House Master of Ceremonies, Gary Goddard

The April-May Puppets in stories from Dusty's TreeHouse East West Players-"Tales from the Orient"

Sing along with Dr. John S. Williams

Sonny Criss presents the Young Person's Guide to Jazz The Moving Company—A Child's Collage of Dance
• Roundabout Theatre with Marilyn Blank

Cal Arts African Ensemble - Ghanalan Music and Dance Santa Monica College Production—a musical adaptation of James Thurber's "The 13 Clocks".

Dance by Chance with Anthony Earl Jenkins

L.A. Brass Society Ensemble-"Meet the Brass" "The Music Box", directed by Rob Bowers "The Young Masters" and Jack McCorkle

Creative Puppetry with Betsy Brown

Oscar Nieto y su Mosaico de Danzas-Spanish Dancing Musical Comedy Theater-Excerpts from your favorite shows

• Paste & paper art with Ed Buttwinick "These and Other Things", directed by Jeremy Blahnik of

the Mark Taper Forum

Bob Baker Marionette Theatre—"Summer Festival" Poems are Fun with Roban McCullough

e Beat that Drum! with Barbara Stevens

Plus: Youth Services Strolling Players, and many more performing arts groups

Performances 9:30 and 10:30 am Mondays through Fridays Presented by the Southern California Symphony-Hottywood Bowl Association and Hol

Bob Baker Marionettes - Hollywood Bowl Children's Festival (1973)

A Los Angeles Herald Examiner, Fri., March 17, 1978 B-13

You can win free tickets to everything from sporting events to the theater or ballet. Just put your name, address and phone number on a postcard, and mail it to "Have Fun On Us," P. O. Box 2416 Terminal Annex, Los Angeles, CA 90051. Please indicate your choice of the offers on the postcard.

Winners are determined by a weekly drawing, so

check the winners' list below each Friday, and if your name is listed call 748-1212, Ext. 491 to claim your prize. (Prizes must be claimed within five working days after publication of winners' names.) Anyone may enter except employees of the Herald Examiner, their families, affiliated companies and distributors



Bob Baker Marionette Theater - Coupon, Herald Examiner (1978)





# City of Los Angeles Department of City Planning

11/13/2008

#### PARCEL PROFILE REPORT

#### **PROPERTY ADDRESSES**

1345 W 1ST ST

ZIP CODES

90026

#### **RECENT ACTIVITY**

None

#### **CASE NUMBERS**

CPC-2007-1233-GPA CPC-1987-182-SP CPC-1986-605-GPC ORD-179420 ORD-16519 ORD-169110 ORD-166703 ORD-164625-SA1165 ORD-164605-SA1165 ORD-156166

ND-81-259-ORD

Address/Legal Information

PIN Number: Lot Area (Calculated):

Thomas Brothers Grid: Assessor Parcel No. (APN):

Tract:

Map Reference:

Block: Lot:

Arb (Lot Cut Reference):

Map Sheet:

133-5A209 24 3,837.8 (sq ft)

PAGE 634 - GRID E2

5160013002

JOSEPH BAYER'S FIRST AND

LAKESHORE BOULEVARD

TRACT M B 11-93

None FR 4

None 133-5A209

135A209

#### Jurisdictional Information

Community Plan Area: Area Planning Commission: Neighborhood Council:

Council District: Census Tract #:

LADBS District Office:

Westlake Central

Greater Echo Park Elvsian

CD 1 - Ed P. Reyes

2080.00

Los Angeles Metro

#### **Planning and Zoning Information**

Special Notes:

Zoning:

Zoning Information (ZI):

Specific Plan Area: Design Review Board:

Mills Act Contract:

Streetscape:

Sign District:

**Building Line:** 

General Plan Land Use:

Plan Footnote - Site Req.: Additional Plan Footnotes:

Historic Preservation Review:

Other Historic Designations:

Historic Preservation Overlay Zone:

POD - Pedestrian Oriented Districts:

CRÁ - Community Redevelopment Agency:

CDO - Community Design Overlay:

Adaptive Reuse Incentive Area:

Other Historic Survey Information:

None

CW

ZI-2374 Los Angeles State

Enterprise Zone

Highway Oriented Commercial -

High Med Residential See Plan Footnotes

Westlake

Central City West

No No None

None None

None None

None No

No None

None No

No None

Proposed: Belmont Learning

Complex

Active: Belmont Senior High

School No

500 Ft Park Zone:

**Assessor Information** 

Central City Parking:

Downtown Parking:

500 Ft School Zone:

Assessor Parcel No. (APN): APN Area (Co. Public Works)\*:

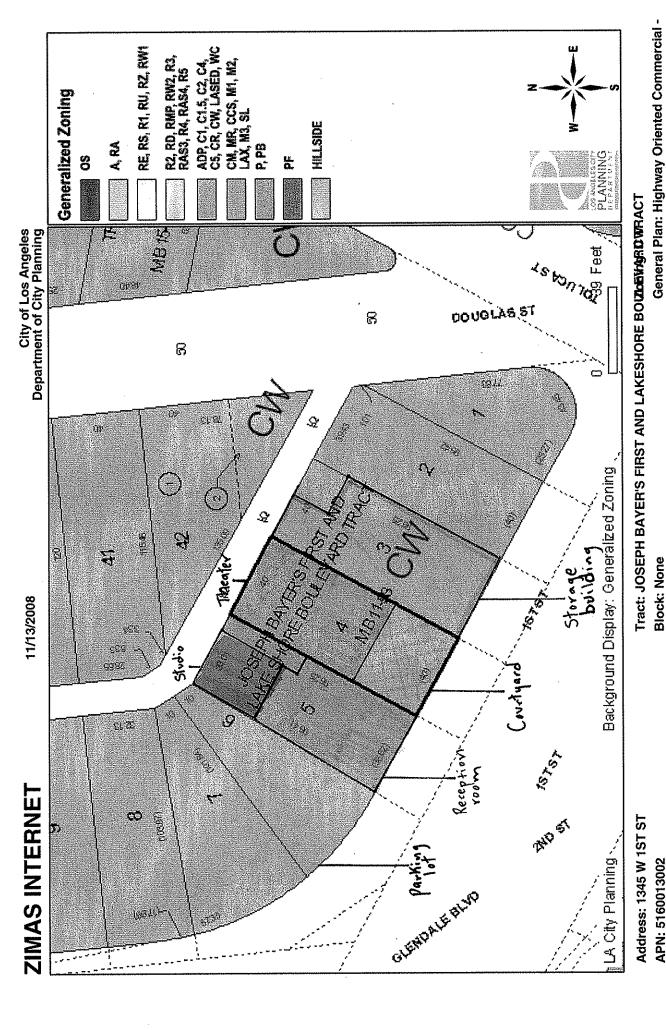
Use Code:

5160013002 0.167 (ac)

2400 - Service Shop (eg. Radio /

TV Repair / Laundry / Electric

Repair)



Streets Copyright (c) Thomas Brothers Maps, Inc.

Lot: FR 4 Arb: None

PIN #: 133-5A209 24