



## **The Anunnaki Project: 1998-2009**

The Anunnaki Project is a multidisciplinary nonprofit arts organization that seeks to educate the public about the mythology and folklore of cultures that have passed into antiquity via theatrical performance, workshops, written materials, and online resources.

### **1998**

- John S. Murphy forms “The Anunnaki”, a performance troupe focusing upon “performative mythology”, the depiction of myth through physical theatre.
- *Surpu Masu*, a large-scale, interactive production based upon the scapegoat archetype, is presented at fringe theatre events throughout the western United States.

### **1999**

- The theatrical emissaries (i.e. performing artists) of The Anunnaki Project are formally dubbed “The Cabiri performance troupe.”
- The Cabiri presents its debut performance *Mors Ianua Vitae* at Arts Edge festival, Seattle Center and Illuminares fire festival, Vancouver, B.C.

### **2000**

- The Cabiri perform at Seattle artist Carl Smool’s millennium sculptural installation and fire ceremony at Seattle Center.
- *The Genesis of Ereshkigal*, the organization’s most in-depth exploration of performative mythology to date, is presented with ancient Sumerian musical accompaniment.
- The Cabiri become regular guest artists at Public Dreams festivals in Vancouver, B.C.
- The Anunnaki Project incorporates as a non-profit organization in Washington State.

### **2001**

- The Anunnaki Project sponsors creation of “The Spiral Tree,” a large-scale fire art sculpture and performance set piece created by Seattle artist Rus Geh.
- The organization presents monthly street theater performances at the Ballard Art Walk.
- The Cabiri performance troupe begins studying aerial dance.
- The organization produces the first *Origins* event, a retrospective of the organization’s first three years of work, at Consolidated Works.
- *The Kojiki of Amaterasu* is performed at the Seattle Opera House and *At the Dawn of Ch’u* is presented at the Pantages Theater in Tacoma as part of the First Night festival.
- The organization receives advance ruling of 501(c)(3) status from the IRS.

### **2002**

- The Cabiri continue to present work regularly at the Ballard Art Walk, and are invited to perform at the annual *Arts In Nature Festival* in West Seattle.
- The Cabiri provide entertainment at large-scale corporate events in the Westin Grand Ballroom and Seahawks Stadium.
- King County Cultural Development Authority (now 4Culture) grants the organization sustained support funding for two years.

### **2003**

- The Anunnaki Project stages *Dance of the Calusari*, its first entirely self-produced show, at the Seattle Fringe Festival, with guest artists Radost Folk Ensemble. After a sold-out run, the Fringe Festival declares bankruptcy and withholds ticket sale revenue from the

artists. Members of The Anunnaki Project work with Theater Puget Sound and other Fringe Festival artists to recoup financial losses.

- The Cabiri continue to perform at corporate events in the Seattle area and expand their repertoire and training in aerial dance, stilt walking, and physical theatre.

#### **2004**

- The Cabiri continue to perform at local festivals and events, and perform at a fundraising event for the Delridge Neighborhood Development Association in Southwest Seattle.
- The organization is again granted two-year sustained support funding by 4Culture.

#### **2005**

- The Cabiri, with guest artists from the Seattle performing arts community, present *Ennia Mousi* (The Nine Muses) at the Arts In Nature Festival and Ballard Art Walk.
- Members of The Cabiri travel to Chicago, IL and Omaha, NE to perform aerial dance, stilt walking, and acrobatics at special occasion events for corporate clients.

#### **2006**

- The Cabiri are invited to perform at the grand opening of Youngstown Cultural Arts Center in West Seattle, and begin teaching weekly aerial dance classes at the facility.
- The Anunnaki Project presents *The Ghost Game*, an evening of interactive, storytelling dinner theater at Youngstown. *The Ghost Game* is the organization's first self-produced event since 2003, and all performances are sold out.
- Members of The Cabiri begin weekly aerial performances at The Pink Door restaurant.
- The Anunnaki Project is awarded permanent 501(c)(3) status by the IRS and again receives two-year sustained support funding from 4Culture.

#### **2007**

- The Anunnaki Project presents a sold-out run of *Garden of Dreams*, an exploration of folklore and mythology from the realm of plants, at Youngstown.
- The Cabiri, along with former members of Cirque du Soleil and Cirque Ingenieux, perform *Father Frost* at a large-scale corporate event at the WA State Trade & Convention Center.

#### **2008**

- The Cabiri are invited to perform at the fifth annual Moisture Festival.
- The Anunnaki Project takes on its most ambitious project to date: *Gods of the Night*, a self-produced, full-length theatrical presentation of ancient Sumerian, planetary and celestial mythology at Shorecrest Performing Arts Center; ticket sales exceed \$10,000.
- The organization presents a sold-out run of *The Ghost Game: Tales of 13 Witches*.
- The organization is awarded funding to engineer and construct a portable, freestanding aerial dance structure via the 4Culture Equipment and Facilities grant program.
- The organization again receives two-year sustained support funding from 4Culture.

#### **2009**

- The Anunnaki Project continues to offer well-attended aerial dance classes for adults at Youngstown, featuring frequent guest instructors and a diverse curriculum.
- With support from the Seattle Parks Department, the organization is planning a large-scale, free outdoor celebration and performance to mark its 10-year anniversary.
- The organization applies for the 4Culture Site Specific performing arts program and plans to bring the freestanding aerial dance structure to King County cities and towns for free outdoor performances during the summer.
- The Anunnaki Project continues to explore new grant opportunities and seeks to expand its Board of Directors.