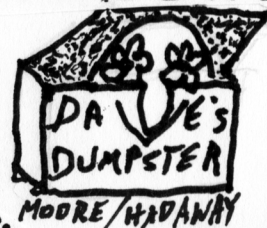


# M\*Y D\*Y P\*R\*DE

2021

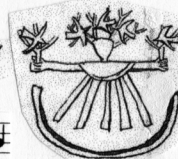


(Due to budget cuts, **A** is cancelled)

Right after the Vietnam War ended in 1975, Heart of the Beast Theater celebrated Workers' Day & Spring with puppets & music & a parade in Powderhorn Park. This was so much fun it became a yearly event - anyone who wanted could join the MAY DAY PARADE.

Heart of the Beast gathered the community each year to pick a theme & build puppets & non-motorized floats. The overall message of Peace & Love preached a populist inclusion of all peoples. A pageant highlight was the giant Sun puppet crossing the lake to dance with the Tree of Life.

JOY



Unfortunately, crowds got bigger & expenses rose, resulting in threatened cancellation in 2019.

Community support poured in & the Parade happened. Then new leadership laid off all staff.

Covid-19 cancelled 2020. Now BIPOC-oriented leadership seeks to reorganize & "root out white supremacy in the festival organization," pay artists who were exploited, and to "make the parade safe for people who aren't liberal in a white south side kind of way."

After the Festival is "decentralized & decolonized," leaders envision a yearly program that will be everywhere all the time - turning the Parade into a metaphor - exactly how is not yet clear (see the HOB website). Hopefully it will be as joyous as the procession which celebrated Spring sunshine in the park for 45 years.

Or, to paraphrase our neighborhood namesake Wendell Phillips:

"The People must be ~~Waked~~ Woke!"

