



Performance Artist: Wanda Raimundi-Ortiz
Costume Designer: Kristina Tollefson
Production Manager: Kristina Tollefson

EXODUS / PILGRIMAGE

First Public Performance:
Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts
UCF Celebrates the Arts
2019

CONCEPT

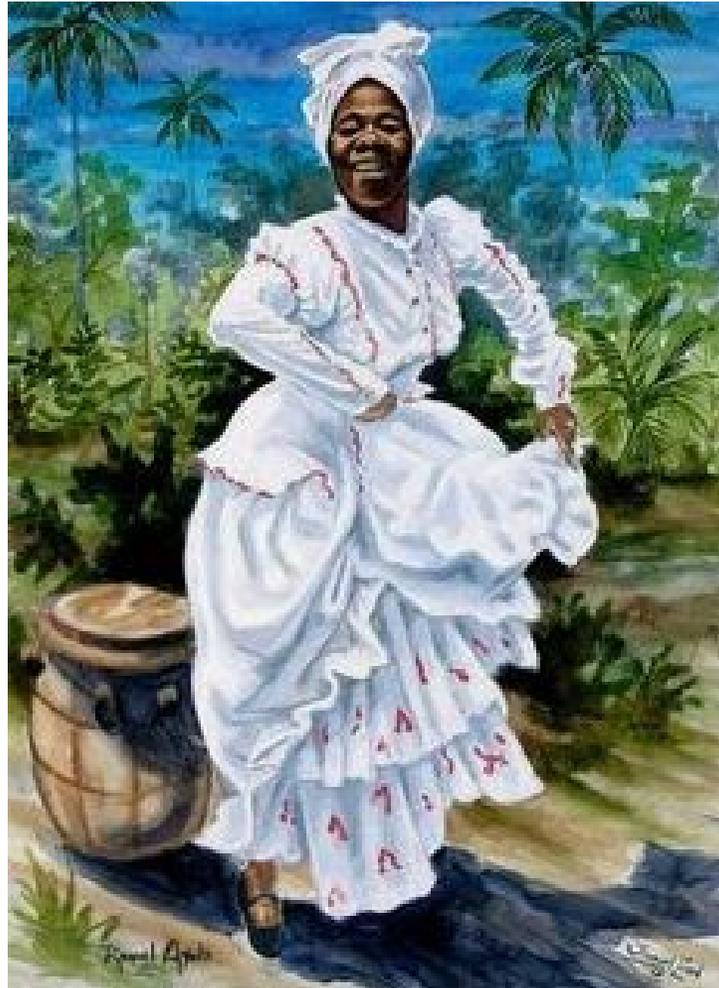
Puerto Rican Performance/Endurance Artist, Wanda Raimundi-Ortiz, conceived a performance to bring renewed attention to the plight of **Puerto Rico** and the Puerto Rican people following **Hurricane Maria** both for those who are still on the island and suffering as well as the plight of those who fled the island through a mass **Exodus** and **Forced Migration** to the mainland.

Her performance would begin with a processional through downtown Orlando accompanied by Plenera drummers and end at the Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts where she, along with a Bomba drumming and dance troupe, and the audience members would take part in a Bomba dance and celebration of Puerto Rican culture. Her vision was that she would wear a traditional Bomba folk costume and have a burdensome pack/train to represent the efforts for survivors to take all they could salvage with them as they relocated their lives.

PROCESS

I researched visual images of Bomba dresses as well as images of the days following Hurricane Maria to get a sense of the colors, textures, objects, and people. Through this research I made specific note of the proliferation of “FEMA tarps” and was struck with the idea of creating the dress out of tarps and other hurricane debris. Rainmundi-Ortiz was very supportive of this design choice and we began working on moving my design forward.

RESEARCH

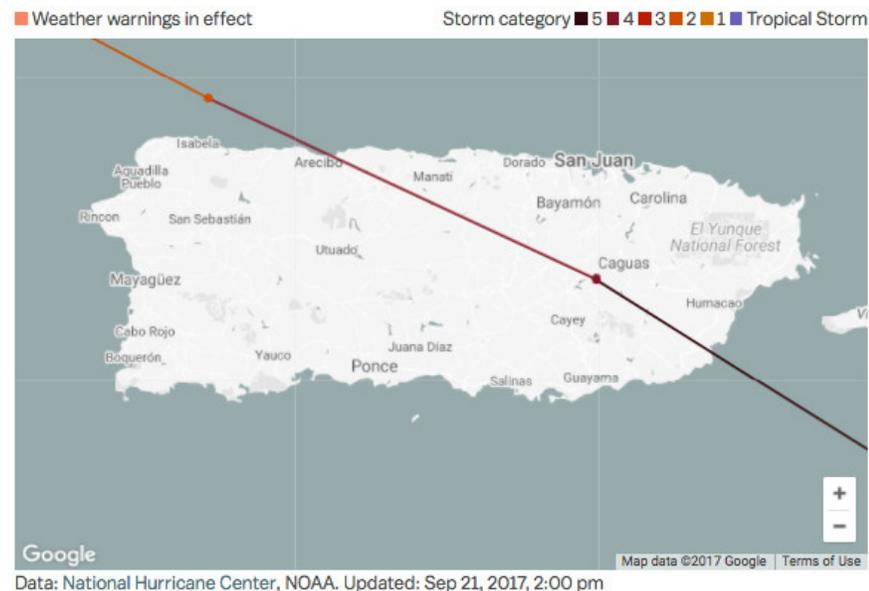


RESEARCH



FIELD WORK

Raimundi-Ortiz and I self funded field work and interviews in Puerto Rico in December 2018 and gathered hurricane debris. Even though the hurricane hit Puerto Rico over a year earlier on September 20, 2017, finding debris did not prove difficult. We primarily did our field work in Islote which is a barrio (English: ward) in the municipality of Arecibo and the location of Hurricane Maria's exit from the island. I documented the debris collected and subsequently used in creating the costume for the performance.



FIELD WORK IMAGES



All field work photos by Kristina Tollefson

FIELD WORK IMAGES



FIELD WORK IMAGES



SKETCHES AND RENDERING

I designed and sketched the details of the costume and worked with Raimundi-Ortiz as she created an illustration of my design for use in marketing.



BUILD PROCESS



FIRST FABRIC FITTING



DEBRIS PLACEMENT AND TEST WALK



FINAL FITTING AND TEST WALK



PERFORMANCE

5TH ANNUAL



APRIL 5-14

Exodus/Pilgrimage

EXODUS|PILGRIMAGE is a multi-sensory interactive public performance piece honoring the resilience of the Puerto Rican community post Hurricane Maria. Join award-winning interdisciplinary artist Wanda Raimundi-Ortiz on a symbolic "pilgrimage" through downtown from City Arts Factory to Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts.

Exodus|Pilgrimage begins at 5 p.m. at the City Arts Factory on S. Magnolia. A procession through downtown Orlando will lead to the Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts and will enter the DeVos Family Room at 6 p.m.



PERFORMANCE

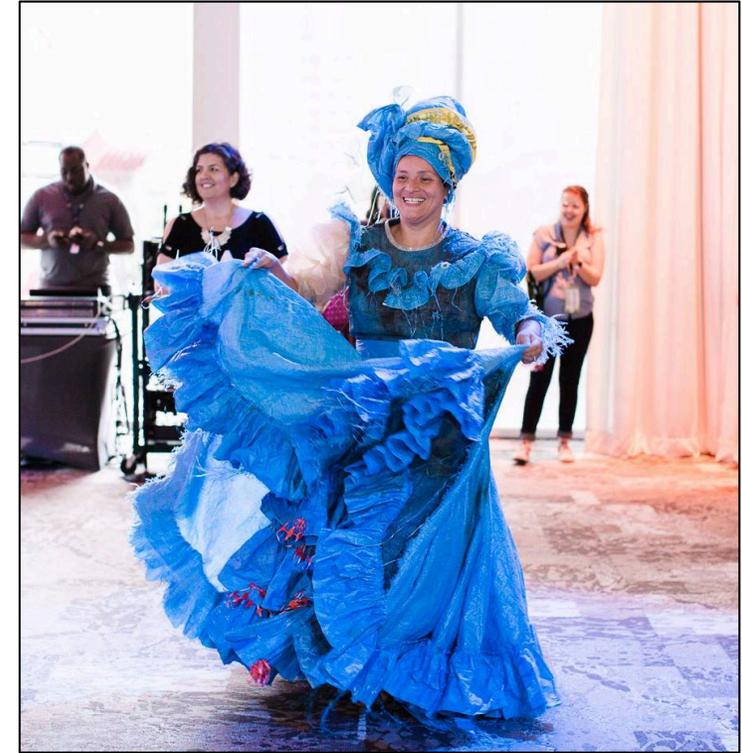




PERFORMANCE



[Click here for a video of a portion of the pilgrimage portion of the performance](#)



[Click here for video of Bomba portion of the performance](#)

PERFORMANCE



NEWS COVERAGE

UCF Professors Make Dress Out of Hurricane Maria Debris SPECTRUM NEWS13 April 9, 2019

- <https://www.mynews13.com/fl/orlando/news/2019/04/09/ucf-professors-make-dress-out-of-hurricane-maria-debris>

Dos profesoras confeccionan un traje de bailadora de bomba con desechos que quedaron tras María EL NUEVO DIA April 11, 2019

- <https://www.elnuevodia.com/corresponsalias/orlando/nota/dosprofesorasconfeccionanuntrajedebailadorad ebombacondesechosquequedarontrasmaria-2487533/>

“Exodus/Pilgrimage” Performance Honors Puerto Rican Traditions for UCF Celebrates the Arts UCF TODAY April 11, 2019

- <https://today.ucf.edu/exodus-pilgrimage-performance-honors-puerto-rican-traditions-ucf-celebrates/>

Exodus | Pilgrimage: UCF Honors Lo Nuestro

- <https://arts.cah.ucf.edu/event/exodus-pilgrimage/>